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A Scoping Review of Goal Concordance Measures in Geriatrics and Palliative Care

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Background

- Goal-concordant, or patient priorities-aligned, care is considered the cornerstone of high-quality care delivery for patients with serious illness and older adults with multimorbidity, including geriatric syndromes.
- A gold standard method for measuring goal concordance is lacking. However, no structured reviews on this topic exist for older adults with multimorbidity, and reviews in the palliative care literature have been unstructured.

Study Aim

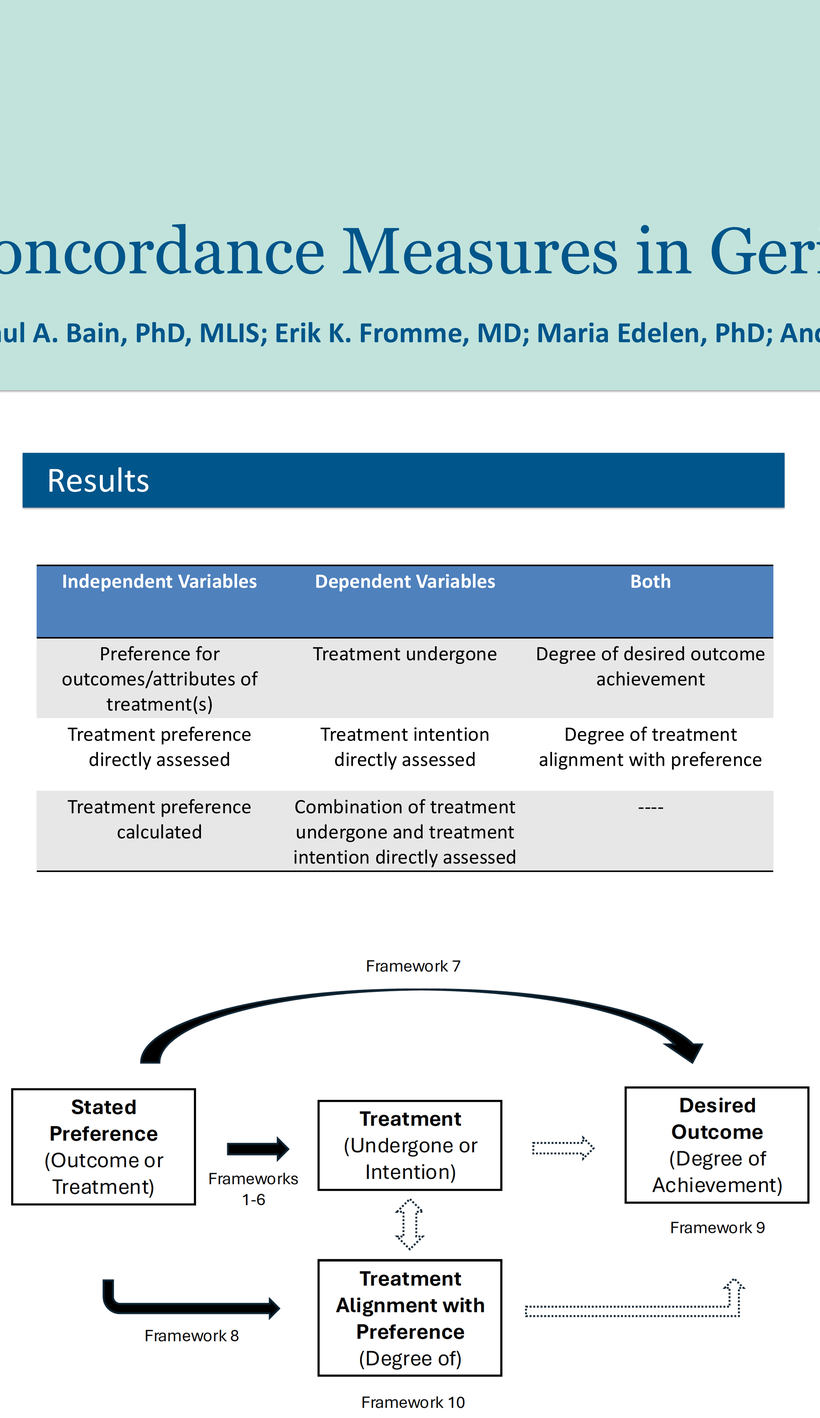
- To identify and describe patient- and caregiver-reported measures of goal concordance for patients with serious illness, geriatric syndromes, and multimorbidity with a focus on understanding goal concordance measurement frameworks and terminology used in measures across these patient populations.

Methods

- The review included a search across MEDLINE, Embase, Web of Science Core Collection, the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature, and PsycINFO with no date limit applied.
- Search terms included goals, priorities, preferences, value, expectations, concordance, discordance, match, attain, achieve, align, congruence, dissonance, respect and terms related to multimorbidity, geriatric syndromes, and serious illness, such as terminal illness, geriatrics, and multiple chronic conditions.
- Data were extracted by 2 reviewers, who resolved disagreements via discussion.
- Study and measure characteristics were summarized and cross-tabulated to identify patterns of measurement framework and terminology adoption.

Results

Independent Variables	Dependent Variables	Both
Preference for outcomes/attributes of treatment(s)	Treatment undergone	Degree of desired outcome achievement
Treatment preference directly assessed	Treatment intention directly assessed	Degree of treatment alignment with preference
Treatment preference calculated	Combination of treatment undergone and treatment intention directly assessed	----



Patient Categories	Framework No.[a] 1	2	7	8	9	10	> 1 framework	Total
Serious Illness	2	0	9	1	2	4	1	**19**
Geriatric Syndrome	1	0	10	0	1	0	0	**12**
Serious Illness and Geriatric Syndrome	0	1	2	0	0	3	2	**8**
Multimorbidity	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	**3**
Serious Illness and Multimorbidity	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	**2**
Total	**4**	**1**	**23**	**1**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**44**

[a] Framework numbers categorize the different combinations of dependent and independent variables.

Results (cont'd)

- Of 4801 articles screened, 664 full-text articles were assessed for eligibility. A total of 63 studies met inclusion criteria, yielding 67 measures; 44 measures were unique.
- Most studies were secondary data analyses of randomized controlled trials, observational cohort studies, or quasi-experimental studies (17 [27.0%]) and included patients with serious illness (44 [69.8%]).
- We identified 6 preexisting frameworks (i.e., 1 through 6) and 4 frameworks previously not described (i.e., 7 through 10). The most widely adopted measurement framework was framework 7 (40 [59.7%]).
- The most frequently used terms were goals (35 [52.2%]), achievement (17 [25.4%]), and attainment (17 [25.4%]), especially among measures for geriatric syndromes.

Conclusion

- In this review, we found heterogeneity but also preferential adoption of certain goal concordance measurement frameworks and terminology that might be well-suited for measuring goal concordance in geriatrics and palliative care.
- Our findings create the foundation for future researchers to develop psychometrically valid measures that can be used to measure goal concordance as part of organizational quality improvement and/or value-based care initiatives for seriously ill and older adult patients.

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