

Thirst : A Concept Analysis

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Abstract

Thirst is a normal physiological mechanism. However, it is one of the most frequently occurring symptoms among hemodialysis patients. The purpose of this article is to explore the concept of thirst by using Walker and Avant's (1995) concept analysis. The steps include: a review of the literature on conceptual definitions of thirst, clarifying the defining attributes, constructing the model: borderlines, contrary examples and related cases, as well as identifying antecedents and consequences. Finally, empirical referents demonstrate the current perspective regarding the concept of thirst. This analysis can help nurses to gain a better understanding of the concept of thirst, and then to apply the knowledge in clinical practice.

Key words : thirst, concept analysis

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