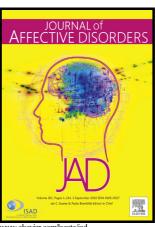
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Prolonged grief reactions after old age spousal

loss and centrality of the loss in post loss identity

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Abstract

Background

The loss of a spouse is a major life event. Previous research found that centrality

of the loss to one's identity using Centrality of Event Scale (CES) is related to

complicated bereavement reactions, such as depression, posttraumatic stress

symptoms (PTS), and prolonged grief symptoms (PGS). This study aims to

examine loss-centrality in elderly bereaved people up to 4 years post loss, to

determine the relation of loss-centrality to complicated bereavement reactions,

such as PGS, depression, and PTS, and to identify early predictors of loss-

centrality.

Method

Self-reported data were collected from 208 elderly bereaved people (mean age

72 years, 63.9% women), who completed measures of psychological distress

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