



# Psychological Abuse in the Elderly During Exchanging News of COVID-19

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## Dear Editor,

Abuse is one of the instances of deprivation of human rights that occurs in various forms, such as psychological abuse, physical abuse, deprivation of authority, neglect, and rejection. Elderly abuse has many different forms, one of which is psychological abuse. This type of abuse is said to inflict pain on the elderly by depriving them of their choice, imposing personal opinions, and saying the words that hurt them (1, 2). Previous studies have reported a significant prevalence of abuse in the elderly, including 63.3% in a study by Nassiri et al. (2) in Iran and 15.7% in a meta-analysis study in 28 countries by Yon et al. Therefore, it requires attention in this age group (3).

In the late months of 2019, an infectious disease called COVID-19 emerged in China. By 2020, it spread in the world like a pandemic disease, causing many problems for many countries. COVID-19 affects all age groups, but its mortality rate is higher among the elderly (4-6).

Unfortunately, people say: "Don't worry! The disease just kills the elderly" when they talk about COVID-19 prognosis in friendly informal gatherings or mass media. These folk conversations are examples of psychological abuse in the elderly. We must take interventions to prevent death due to COVID-19 in elderly people, too. More attention needs to be paid to the physical and psychological health of the elderly and promote their mental health and life

expectancy. Elderly people need help in coping with the stress caused by COVID-19. Also, it is necessary to encourage the elderly to stay at home to prevent getting infected by the virus.

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