



**Purposes, protocols and best practices for conducting clinical interviews in psychocardiology:
a review**

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Abstract

Introduction: Clinical interviews, a key assessment tool in psychology, enable clinicians to gather relevant information and ensure reliable evaluations in clinical and research settings. While several protocols exist for clinical interviews across different purposes, in cardiological settings a more targeted assessment is needed to address patient-specific issues. This review aims to understand how clinical interviews have been utilized in the literature for psychological assessment of patient with cardiovascular disease, specifically delineating purposes, protocols, common best practices and related clinical implications in this particular setting.

Methods: Scopus, PubMed, PsycINFO and Open Access Theses and Dissertations were systematically searched for primary studies meeting specific criteria, including participants with a cardiovascular disease, psychological assessment through clinical interviews, adult subjects, and publication in English. No date limitations were imposed. Studies were screened through title and abstract and successively selected through full-text analysis. Quality assessment of included studies was conducted and relevant information for each study was gathered and narratively synthesized. Screening, inclusion and data extraction were performed by two independent assessors, with interrater reliability regularly calculated.

Results: A total of 524 records were identified from databases and evaluated for inclusion. Preliminary study findings highlighted that clinical interviews in cardiological settings serve various purposes, yet often utilizes protocols and procedures not specifically designed for cardiological patients. Characteristics unique to these patients are typically examined through associated questionnaires specifically developed for this purpose.

Conclusions: The present findings highlight how clinical interviews in cardiological setting usually serve a general assessment purpose similar to other medical settings. Development of interview protocols tailored for psychological assessment of patients with cardiovascular diseases should be evaluated in terms of feasibility and clinical implementation.