



**THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BARBADIANS WITH LOWER EXTREMITY
AMPUTATION AS A COMPLICATION OF LONG-TERM DIABETES
MELLITUS**

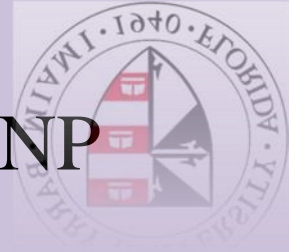
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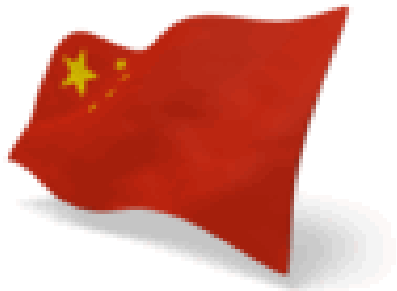
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Background of Study

Global Incidence of Diabetes

- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ Amputation
- ◆ Physiological, psychological and psychosocial issues
- ◆ Quality of life issues

Statement of the Problem



“What is the Lived Experience of Barbadians with Lower Extremity Amputation as a Complication of Long-Term Diabetes Mellitus.?”

Research Question

Sauter, Pezzin, &
Dillingham (2013)

Examined the effectiveness of
rehabilitation received at alternative post-
acute care settings.

Patients who received post-acute
care in an inpatient rehabilitation
setting experienced better outcomes
6-months post amputation than
those who were treated at a skilled
nursing facility or discharged
directly home..

Jayaraman, Deeny,
Eisenberg, Mathur, &
Kuiken (2014)

Examined the use of a GPS unit and a step
activity monitor to quantify community
mobility and social interaction of an
individual with transfemoral amputation as
result of dysvascular disease.

The findings provided valuable
insights into the patient's prosthesis
use in everyday life, and how the
use of prosthesis, when worn, could
improve the mobility and improve
community reintegration for
amputees.

Livingstone, Mortel &
Taylor (2011)

Provided professionals with a
comprehensive understanding of the
realities associated with post
amputation.

Participants reported feeling
shocked, in disbelief, angry, fearful,
and in a state of turmoil,
immediately following the
amputation.

Synthesis of the Literature

Physiological Issues Related to Amputation

Holzer, Sevela,
Fraberger, Bluder,
Kicking, &
Holzer, (2014)

Examined the impact of lower-limb amputations on aesthetic factors such as body image, self-esteem, and quality of life (QoL).

The results of the study revealed that all lower-limb amputees had a significant lower MBSRQ scores compared with the control group.

Senra, Oliveira,
Leal & Vieira
(2012)

Explored adults' experiences of lower limb amputation, focusing on changes in their self-identity related to their impairment.

The results showed that most patients addressed their amputation as a potential break with the past and with what they were waiting for in the future.

Senra et al. (2013).

Explored whether different adults' experiences of lower-limb amputation was related to different levels of depression.

Patients who reported having a greater self-awareness of their impairment, inadequate social support, and poor well-being, showed higher depressive levels.

Synthesis of the Literature

Psychological Issues Related to Amputation

Unwin, Kacperak,
& Clark (2009)

Examined the influence of demographic, amputation and psychosocial variables on positive psychological adjustment outcomes for lower limb amputees.

The results of the study revealed that Hope at the beginning of rehabilitation was related to positive mood and hope and social support were related to general adjustment at the 6 month follow-up period.

Olugbemi, Tolulope,
& Adesoji (2013)

Examined the role of social support and need for achievement on psychological well-being of below-the-knee amputees.

The results of the study concluded that: social support has significant influence on psychological well-being.

Cox, Williams,
Weaver (2011)

Studied the QoL and functional independence of lower limb diabetic amputees one to three years post amputation.

The authors concluded that the female amputees, despite having their amputations at an earlier age than the males, were found to better cope and function with their lower limb amputations.

Synthesis of the Literature

Quality of Life Issues Related to Amputation

◆ ...Design

- Qualitative
- Hermeneutic Phenomenology of van Manen

◆ ...Setting

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados
Private homes

◆ ...Sample size

Purposive/Snowball
16 diabetic amputees

Research Design

- Turning to the nature of the lived experience.
- Investigate the experience as we live it.
- Reflect on essential themes.

The Lived Experience of the Barbadian Diabetic Amputee

- Describe the phenomenon through writing/rewriting.
- Maintain a strong relation to the phenomenon.
- Balance the research context

Max van Manen's Six Research Activities



Data Analysis



Age	Gender	Marital Status	Amputation site	Prosthesis
44 - 82 years with a mean age of 67	12 females 4 males	2 participants were married 2 were widowed 1 was divorced 11 were single	10 below the knee 6 above the knee 2 bilateral amputees	10 had prosthesis 6 no prosthesis

Findings of the Inquiry: Demographic Data



Findings of the Inquiry: Four Themes

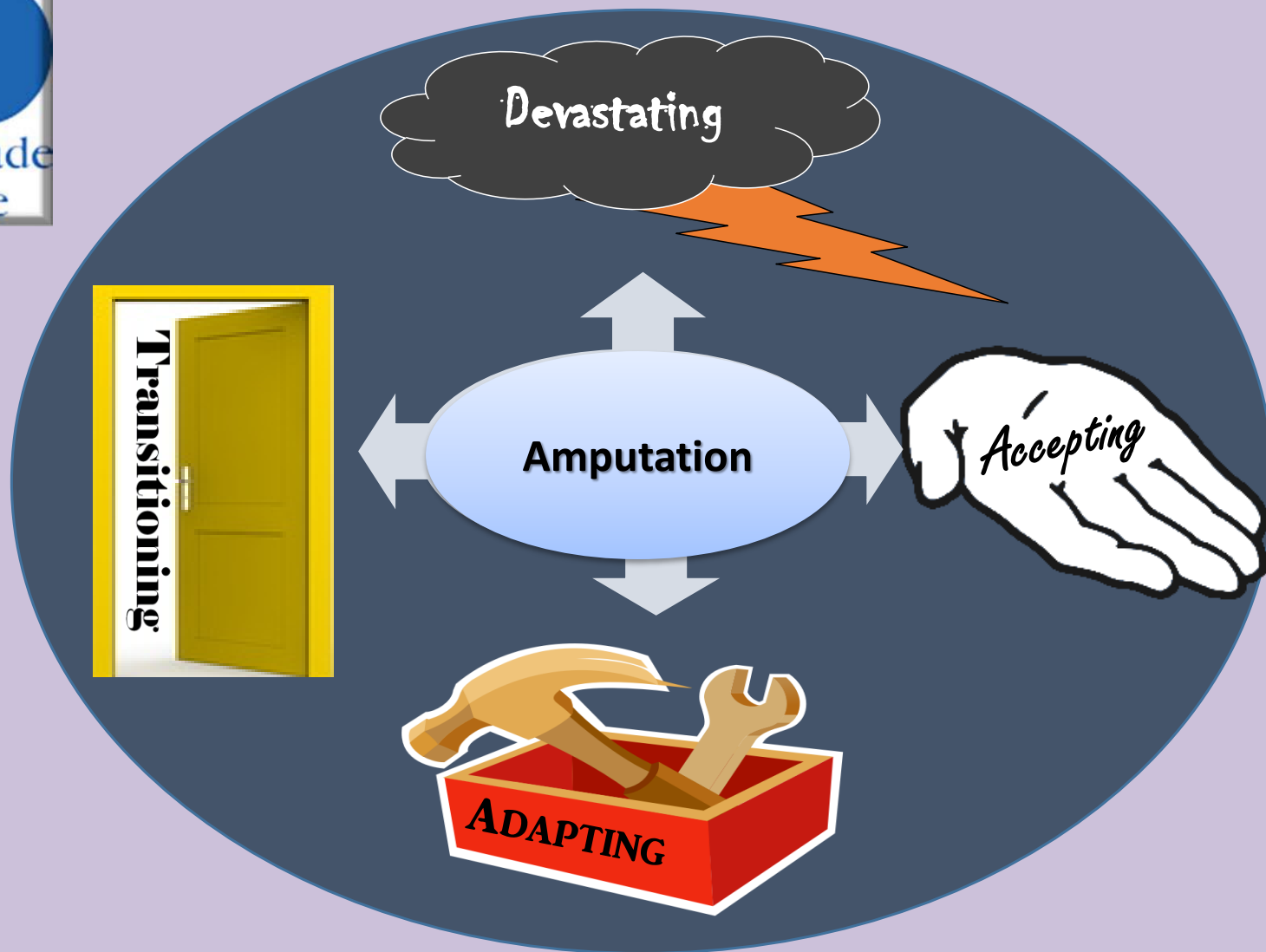


Figure 3. Brathwaite's conceptual thematic representation of the lived experience of Barbadians with Lower Extremity Amputations as a Complication of Long Term Diabetes Mellitus



Theme Devastating

- **Kobby:** He appeared angry as he spoke of the construction at his home. His voice raised as he spoke of the careless mason, “but a man tell me man listen, look, you is a diabetic, that foot rotting.”
- **Abena:** “It used to be very painful. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat, bear pains, "What's going on?" and I say, "You tell me to go to sea. And I went in the sea, and this is what happened." And everything break down from there.”

Reports a crushing feeling in her chest a feeling of doom when she was sent to the hospital. “she didn’t like how my toe did look, the other four got dark so they tell me the best thing now to save my life, the foot would have to go.”
- **Adowa:**
- **Akousa:** “He said I will try to save these toes for you cause it ain’t too bad, but I knew that the diabetes was good with it.” The infection worsened and the doctor informed her: “Mom, I have got to schedule the surgery for Tuesday, the bad circulation is traveling too far.” I said, “Are you trying to kill me?” He said, “No mom I am not going to kill you, I am going to save your life.”

Theme Accepting

- **Afia:** “In two days’ time de foot turn black, black and he said I catch a infection it was only my heel, but when I came out of the surgery I saw AKA.”
- **Akua:** “I didn't involve because I didn't want anybody say oh, you couldn't do it yourself and I didn't sign nothing for you to cut off your foot. You know, I handle everything myself.”
- **Lahari** “He carry me and put me, and I lay down in my bed I gine [going to] carry you safe cause you in the house of God already. From the time I say thank. the hand let go sweetheart, and I aint see that hand since.”
- **Sibri:** Her sentiments were dramatized as she used her hands in a chopping manner towards the amputated leg. “So it caught gangrene. How it feel to me? Well, if a ting aint no use to you, well you take it off.”

Theme Adjusting

- **Ekua:** “I don't have any hand grips or, If anybody's taking me out, we take a wheel chair and there's a fairly tall ascending all I want to do is learn to walk.”
- **Ama:** “He wanted to put me back on my feet and what's not. But then my boss man had give me some money to put down, but I had was to find the rest of the money.”
- **Yaa:** “ I does use my wheel chair, I does lock the wheels, and pull myself up so that I could be self-sufficient and industrious.”
- **Lariba:** “I got my bedrooms upstairs and I cannot get up 14 steps to get to my bedroom. So I can't even get a proper bath because the bathrooms are on the upstairs. I uses a washing tub and I have to be using that as a temporary bath and it's not easy.”



Theme Transitioning

- **Adowa:** “I usta spend a lot of time wid the guysI just enjoy my time there, when you retire you can lime much as you want, to me those guys was a part of my life.”
- **Kwasi:** “I am a contractor and going back to work is very important, you cant go in the dirt and gravel with a wheel chair, so the prosthesis is going to get me back there.”
- **Kwami:** “Well, the prosthesis allows me to move around, so I am mobile. I can walk on it. and I can walk and I can go wherever. I can drive and those kinds of things, I am going back to school to help coach the children.”
- **Kofi:** “I would think is a good step, but the prosthesis in this day and age is a good implement for anyone who has because in the earlier days there weren’t these fancy things.”



➤ **Participant**

- Narratives
- Thick, rich descriptions

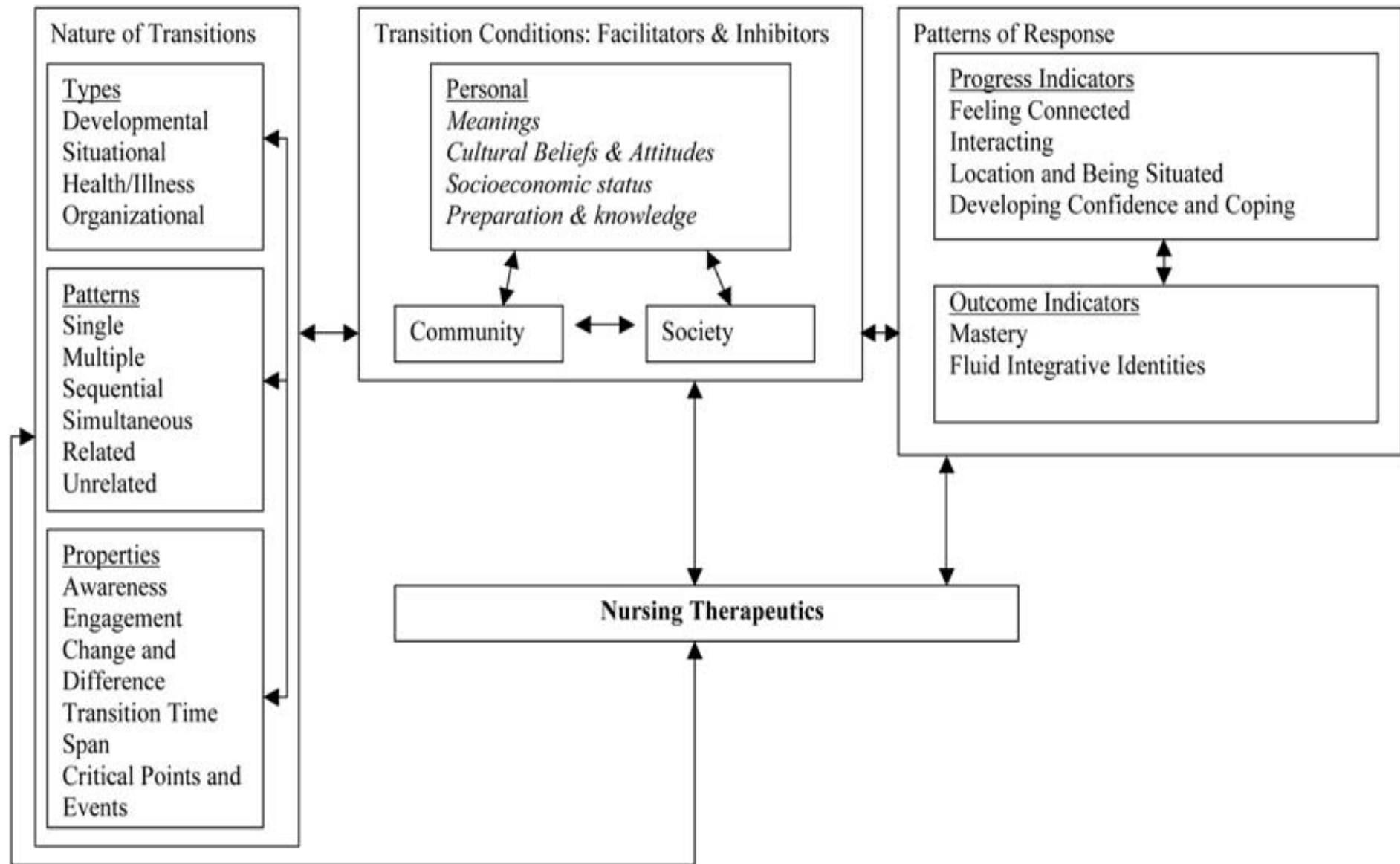
➤ **Researcher**

- Research rigor
- Journaling
- Immersion
- Depictions of themes

Maintaining Integrity in Data Analysis

- Middle range theory
- Theory is based on the nurse patient relationship at time of vulnerability and transition

Meleis's Theory of Transition



Meleis's Theory of Transition Cont.



- ◆ Properties of Transition
 - Awareness
 - Engagement
 - Change and difference
 - Time span
 - Critical points and events

Meleis's Theory of Transition Cont.



Awareness----Devastating



Abena:

Remembered admitting that she was not testing her blood sugar as required, she recalls: “The first thing I did was to go and get strips for my monitor, I guess it was too late, but I had to do something.”

Afia:

Spoke of how her children and family members reacted. “I say make the best of it. It's something that you have to live with now, you have no choice, so you make...”

Connecting the Theory of Transition



Engagement-Accepting & Adjusting



Ama:

“Well, the first one I came in to Dr. Mosley and he gave me the paper. He tell me there are 2 persons who do prosthetic leg here in Barbados.”

Lariba:

“Well, it is very hard because where I live I got my bedrooms are upstairs and I cannot get up 14 steps to get to my bedroom. I had to get my son to bring down my bed...”

Connecting the Theory of Transition



Engagement-Accepting & Adjusting



Ama:

“Well, the first one I came in to Dr. Mosley and he gave me the paper. He tell me there are 2 persons who do prosthetic leg here in Barbados.”

Engement

Lariba:

“Well, it is very hard because where I live I got my bedrooms are upstairs and I cannot get up 14 steps to get to my bedroom. I had to get my son to bring down my bed...”

Connecting the Theory of Transition Cont.



Change/Difference Transitioning



Yaa: “I remember calling my children and them saying mommy, if it hurt you, do what you have to do. I'm not bearing the pains for you, you bearing the pains for me to me.”

Kwasi: “Well, I decided at the time when I decided to take off the leg that I would have to get a prosthesis, because I wanted to be mobile still.”

Connecting the Theory of Transition Cont.



Time Span Devastating



Ekua: “I was in pain and they had me there sitting for a long time past my appointment, the pain was so bad that I had to tell them about their parts [laugh] I don’t get on so but when that pain hit me...”

Kwasi: “I looked at the foot, and he was on the foot just pressing, squeezing and forcing, doing all kinds of crazy things to the foot. So I was thinking, I wonder if this man knew that this foot is hurting”

Connecting the Theory of Transition Cont.



Critical Points & Events All Themes



Ama recalls crying when she heard the devastating news.

Akosua's moment of acceptance came when she was about to go to surgery. She remembers asking: "Are you carrying me to kill me?"

Adowa: "that's why at home ,anybody can tell you, oh, she don't want any help. She does everything herself."

Lahari: "I take the bus now, I go to church, go to the supermarket, and I can go to the doctor by myself."

Connecting the Theory of Transition Cont.



Significance for
nursing education

Significance for
nursing practice



**Significance of
the Study**

Significance for
health & public
policy

Significance for
nursing research





- Strengths:
 - Autonomy of participants
 - Hear the voices of participants

- Limitations:
 - Setting
 - Transferability

Strengths & Limitations of the Study



- The nature of the amputation
- The nature of the amputation
- Studies utilizing a larger and more diverse population
- Studies could address the grave scarcity of psychiatric services.

Recommendations for Future Research

- This study sought to explore the lived experiences of Barbadians.
- Sixteen enthusiastic participants participated in the study.
- The phenomenological principles of Max van Manaan were applied.
- Themes identified were *devastating, accepting, adapting, and transitioning*.
- Both themes and properties were central to this study.
- Diabetes and its consequences of amputation, does not discriminate.

Conclusion & Summary





Questions?

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