
Abstract
The purpose of this study was to conduct a qualitative meta-synthesis on the experiences of kidney failure in the nursing literature. Database searches were not limited by date; however, only 13 peer-reviewed articles, theses, and dissertations met inclusion criteria. Meta-synthesis of the texts suggests individuals with kidney failure have experiences of paradoxical nature, including occurrences of restricted freedom that bring about distant connection, dependent autonomy, abnormal normalcy, and uncertain hope. When nurses are attuned to the seemingly contradictory nature of experiences of individuals living with kidney failure, they may be better able to develop strategies that will increase quality of life for these patients.