Coorientation of body image among older married couples

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Abstract: This study examined how older husbands and wives perceived their bodies and appearance in the framework of coorientation effect. Data were collected via a mail survey of older married couples residing in three metropolitan areas in Florida. A total of 94 married couples who were 60 years older participated in this study. Results indicated that older husbands' self-assessment of appearance was positively correlated with wives' self-assessment of appearance. Husbands' evaluation of their wives' appearance was positively associated with wives' self-assessment of their own appearance (self-other agreement), and wives' evaluation of their husbands' appearance was also positively correlated with husbands' self-assessment of their own appearance (self-other agreement). In addition, husbands' evaluation of their wives' appearance corresponded to wives' evaluation of their husbands' appearance (reciprocity). These results indicated that the agreement in two spouses' self-assessment of appearance can be explained by the two coorientation effects (self-other agreement and reciprocity) occurred in two partners of married couples.

Author Keywords: Body image; Coorientation effects; Older married couples; Reciprocity; Self-other agreement

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