

FACTORS INFLUENCING LIFE SATISFACTION AMONG OLDER THAI WOMEN WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Abstract: This study aimed to examine causal relationships among disease severity, social support, socioeconomic status, self-efficacy and life satisfaction of older Thai women with knee osteoarthritis. The theoretical framework was derived from Braden's self-help theory and review of the literature. A sample of 430 older Thai women with knee osteoarthritis was recruited from the orthopedic clinics of three hospitals (university, military and private). Structural Equation Modeling was used to examine a hypothesized model. The final model fit the empirical data and explained 44% and 22% of variance in life satisfaction and self-efficacy, respectively.

Results indicated: (1) greater disease severity was related to lower self-efficacy and life satisfaction; (2) greater social support was related to greater self-efficacy and life satisfaction; (3) relationships between disease severity and life satisfaction, and between social support and life satisfaction, were mediated by self-efficacy; (4) greater socioeconomic status was related to greater life satisfaction; (5) greater disease severity was related to lower socioeconomic status; and, (6) social support was positively correlated with socioeconomic status.

These findings: 1) provide an increased understanding of life satisfaction among older Thai women with knee osteoarthritis; and, 2) suggest the salience of enhancing such individuals' life satisfaction through intervention programs that emphasize self-efficacy specific to osteoarthritis management, as well as social support through family participation.

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