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"Doing Every-Day Life" with Primary Sjogren's Syndrome: Factors Predicting Difficulties Performing Daily Activities and Taking on Life Roles.


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Title: ‘Doing every-day life’ with primary Sjögren’s syndrome: Factors predicting difficulties performing daily activities and taking on life roles

Hackett, Katie; Lendrem, Dennis W.; Rapley, Tim; et al.

Background: Previous research has demonstrated that people with primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) experience difficulties performing daily activities and have poor quality of life using the SF-36 measure. This study builds on previous research by identifying independent predictors of difficulties with social and physical life roles and impaired physical and social functional status using functional and participatory domains of the SF-36 measure and other patient reported measures.

Methods: 149 PSS patients diagnosed according to the American European Consensus Criteria were recruited from 12 sites across England. Participants completed the SF-36 questionnaire and measurements of anxiety and depression (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale HADS)), functional status (ImprovedHAQ), pain (visual analogue scale (VAS)), fatigue (VAS), mental fatigue (VAS), cognitive failures (Cognitive Failures Questionnaire) and recorded their age and disease duration.

Results: PSS patients scored significantly worse that the norm-based scores for each SF-36 domain of Physical Functioning, Role Physical, Social Functioning and Role Emotional (all p<0.001). These domains all correlated significantly with anxiety, depression, cognitive failures, mental fatigue, pain, fatigue and dryness (p<0.001). Multivariate analysis was carried out on each participatory domain in turn, with all items which correlated significantly being entered into the models. To further test the robustness of the models, significant predictors identified from the multivariate analysis were entered into step one of a hierarchical linear regression model and the non-significant factors entered into step two.

Depression, pain and fatigue were all predictors of reduced SF-36 Physical Functioning domain scores. They explain 46.3% of the variance which was significant (p<0.001). Anxiety, depression and fatigue were predictors of reduced SF-36 Role Physical domain scores. They explain 50.3% of the variance which was significant (p<0.001). Depression, pain and fatigue were predictors of reduced SF-36 Social Functioning domain scores. They explain 61.1% of the variance which was significant (p<0.001). Depression, anxiety and fatigue were predictors of reduced SF-36 Role Emotional domain scores. They explain 50.7% of the variance which was significant (p<0.001).

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that depression, fatigue, anxiety and pain are predictors of the reduced ability to perform daily activities and to take on life roles. Interventions which address these important symptoms of PSS should be identified in order to support people to carry out daily activities and take on social and physical life roles.