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Quality of Life of Osteoarthritis patients in Kirkuk City	عنوان الرسالة

Abstract

Osteoarthritis is the most common musculoskeletal disorder; it's a chronic joint disorder of multifactorial etiology, it is dynamic processing characterized by continuous loss of articular cartilage and periarticular bone remodeling. Pain is a common symptom among older adults that usually results in functional limitations which influences their quality of life . The aim of the study was to assess Quality of Life (QoL) of osteoarthritic patients , and to identify the relationship between some characteristics of osteoarthritis and health problems related to quality of life .The non- experimental approach and descriptive design was used in this study. The study was conducted at Azadi teaching hospital in Kirkuk city during the period from 5th January 2011 to the 20th May 2011. Purposive sample consists of (610) clients who visited rehabilitation and physiotherapy clinic and diagnosed with osteoarthritis. In order to collect the study information, a questionnaire was constructed depending on Word Health Organizatio(WHO) and related literature review. It is composed of two parts , part one included (12) items which focused on the client demographic characteristics such as (age, sex, martial status, residence, occupation, level of education, period of disease, concomitant chronic disease, Body Mass Index , joint affected by disease and smoking) .Part two is composed of (4) sub items that covered independency, daily physical activities, psycho-social aspects and adaptation of life. The overall questions included (44) items,5-likert scale option was used in the rating scale as: (5) for extremely, (4) for very much, (3) for a moderate amount, (2) for a little and (1) for not at all. Content validity was determined by presenting the questionnaire to a panel of (12) experts. Internal consistency of the questionnaire was assessed by calculating Cronbach's Coefficient alpha. The data analysis shows that there is a significant statistical association between (HRQoL) items that are related to independency, daily physical activities, psycho-social aspects ,and adaptation of life domains . The researcher concluded that health related quality of life of osteoarthritis can be measured by instruments depending on WHO criteria and the socio demographic characteristic of osteoarthritis patients had direct effect on independency, daily physical activities, psycho-social aspects and adaptation of life. Depending on the findings and conclusions of the study, the researcher recommended Construction of educational program regarding delay occurrence of osteoarthritis, an appropriate body weight, encourage the regular physical activity to the patients, psycho-social support, home and community support in collaboration with Health Governorate medical college, and nursing college. Further studies could improve the instrument constructed by this study from aspects of validity, reliability, and quality of questions.