

Perceived Social Support following Extremity Trauma: Does Sex Matter?



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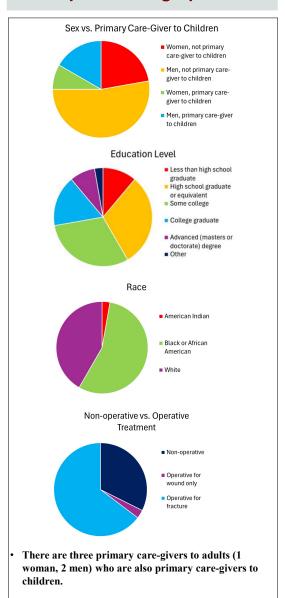
Introduction

- Patients in recovery from traumatic orthopedic injury may struggle to complete normal daily activities and rely on support from other to fulfill responsibilities.
- Orthopedics research has identified two selfreported factors that influence recovery outcomes: social support and self-efficacy
- Existing research lacks specific information about study participants and includes predominantly male subjects
- Purpose of this study is to investigate how various demographic factors and social roles impact fracture patient perceptions of social support and self efficacy
- We predicted that women and patients with children in their care will report lower social support and self efficacy

Methods

- Prospective cohort study enrolled from University Medical Center LSUHSC Orthopaedic Trauma Clinic
- Eligibility requirements include adults aged 18-79 years old with at least one new extremity fracture in the last six weeks
- Patients complete an informed consent and HIPAA authorization, then answer demographic information questionnaire plus the General Self-Efficacy instrument and two short forms related to Emotional Support and Instrumental Support from NIH PROMIS Item Bank, all answered on a 5point Likert scale

Participant Demographics



Results

- Relative to population normative results for each of the surveys, our population reported average survey T-scores with no differences between male and female subjects
- Subjects reporting having a child in their care had a high reported General Self-Efficacy T-scores (58.1 +/- 9.7 versus 49.8 +/- 10.6, p=0.0453) and tended to higher reported Instrumental Support (59.3 +/- 8.7 versus 52.0 +/- 9.7, p=0.0525)

Conclusion

- Preliminary data indicates that our fracture patient population reports self-efficacy and social support within normative population values with no difference between the sexes
- Findings also suggest that having the social role of caring for a child is associated with higher (better) reported self-efficacy and instrumental support
- This association may be secondary to the presence of other, unmeasured, support systems that patients with children are able to access

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