

Comparative Study on the Quality of Life of Lower-Limb Amputees between Portugal and Spain

Poster 6.009

Matos, José Pedro¹; Gomes, Ana²; Moreira, Carlota³; Costa, Catarina⁴; Mendes, Tânia⁵
¹Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa



BACKGROUND

Characterising the perception of unilateral lower limb amputees and increasing information and data on their rehabilitation will help to fill the information gap, contributing to the making of new studies with greater scientific and methodological rigour. This knowledge will make it possible to optimise rehabilitation and rationalise costs, enabling the creation of health policies that are appropriate to needs.

AIM

To compare the perception of unilateral lower limb amputees on the quality/functionality of life with the prosthesis in Portugal and Spain.

METHOD

This was an observational study with a convenience sample of unilateral major lower limb amputees living in Portugal or Spain, of both gender and aged 18 or above, who were given the PEQ questionnaires, validated in Portuguese and Spanish. Data was collected by applying the questionnaire online or in person at orthopaedic and similar centres, at the same time, a questionnaire was completed in order to collect sociodemographic data, with the independent variables of gender, chronological age, aetiology, time and level of amputation, laterality and use of walking aids. The study was approved by ESTeSL's Ethics Committee under number CE-ESTeSL-Nº 37-2024.

RESULTS

The sample consisted in 30 individuals of each country. When comparing the sample, no statistically significant differences were detected in relation to the PEQ subscales. We tried to understand the influence of sociodemographic data in the general population, nPT + nES= 60, and detected statistically significant differences in the gender variable in the FR subscale; in age in the AP and AM subscales; in time since amputation in the UT, FR, SB and WB subscales; and in time since prosthesis in the UT, SB, AM and WB subscales. As for the level and cause of amputation, no significant differences were detected in any subscale (Figure 1).

Subscales/ Test statistics	Country		Sex		Age		Level of amputation		Amputation time		Prosthetic time	
	Mann-Whitney U	p	Mann-Whitney U	p	Correlation Coefficient	p	Mann-Whitney U	p	Correlation Coefficient	p	Correlation Coefficient	p
Utility Scale (UT)	323,000	0.06	249,500	0.072	0.139	0.289	297,000	0.098	,301*	0.019	,363**	0.008
Appearance Scale (AP)	428,500	0.751	270,000	0.145	,292*	0.023	312,000	0.157	0.143	0.275	0.093	0.509
Frustration Scale (FR)	444,500	0.935	208,000	0.012	0.241	0.064	281,000	0.054	,287*	0.026	0.248	0.073
Social Burden Scale (SB)	418,000	0.634	350,500	0.913	0.035	0.789	384,000	0.796	,398**	0.002	,392**	0.004
Ambulation Scale (AM)	416,000	0.615	356,000	0.987	-,257*	0.047	309,000	0.143	0.24	0.065	,285**	0.038
Well being Scale (WB)	442,500	0.912	302,500	0.361	0.131	0.319	304,000	0.122	,355**	0.005	,390**	0.004

** Significant correlation at 1% significance level.

* Significant correlation at the 5% significance level.

p's>0.05 there is no statically significant difference

p's<0.05 there is a statically significant difference.

Figure 1- Summary of the results obtained in SPSS.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

When comparing the PEQ averages with sociodemographic data in the two countries, even though there were no statistically significant values, there were differences in QoL, a fact corroborated by some authors and not by others. Living in Portugal or Spain does not interfere with the QoL of unilateral major lower limb amputees aged between 18 and 99, since no statistically significant differences were found between the two countries in terms of the PEQ subscales.

REFERENCES

- Benavent JV, Tenías JM, Pellin A, Mohedo JC, Cabellos-García AC, Gea-Caballero V. Sociodemographic determinants for the health-related quality of life of patients with vascular amputations as determined with the prosthesis evaluation questionnaire. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020;17(8). doi:10.3390/ijerph17082691
- Matos D. Reabilitação e Qualidade e Vida Em Pessoas Com Amputação de Membros Inferiores.; 2019.