



## Impact Of Gender Difference In Behavioural Component, Musculoskeletal Pain, Psychosocial Factors And Sleep Apnea In Elderly Individual.

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Examines the multifaceted impact of gender differences on various health aspects in the elderly population. Specifically, it delves into the Behavioral components, musculoskeletal pain, psychosocial factors, and sleep apnea, shedding light on how these factors interplay with gender and influence overall health outcomes in older adults.

**Methodology:** Cross-sectional Study Collect data from a single point in time to examine associations between gender differences and health outcomes in elderly individuals.

**Result:** There was statistical significance difference between old age female and old male in geriatric pain measure scale with  $p < 0.05$ .

**Conclusion:** Gender variations in behavior may influence how individuals experience and cope with musculoskeletal pain and psychosocial factors, highlighting the importance of personalized treatment approaches

**Keywords:** Gender, sleep apnea, musculoskeletal pain, health

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### Introduction:

Disordered breathing during sleep is a common abnormality resulting in excessive daytime somnolence and numerous physiologic illness for millions of Americans. Sleep apnea is defined as a repetitive, intermittent cessation of air flow at the nose and mouth while sleeping, and the clinical syndrome is marked by recurrent episodes of apnea (complete cessation of breathing) and hypopneas (partial decrease in breathing) during sleep. These episodes can be due to two causes which include occlusion of the upper respiratory tract (URT) airway (obstructive) or absence of breathing effort (central). Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is an independent risk factor for hypertension and other cardiovascular disease such as stroke and myocardial infarction. It has also been reported to play a role in the pathogenesis of insulin resistance and Type II diabetes. In addition to these effects, the excessive daytime sleepiness associated with OSA has been implicated in motor vehicle accidents and a general decrease in quality of life. OSA represents a major public health issue.<sup>1,2</sup>

Psychologic alsymp to msinclude feeling off earorterr or without anyparticular reason.<sup>3</sup> Musculoskeletaldis or dersare them ostfrequentchronicdiseases during aging, being characterized specially by painanddecreased joint functionan dmovement. When associated to pain, the yarrelated to worsequalityoflife.<sup>4</sup> Apotentially importants our ceofunrecognizedm or bidity in this group is obstructive sleepapnea (OSA). OSA isassociated with multiple health consequences, in cluding neurologicallydys function sleepiness sanded creasedcognitive

function, vascular disease hypertension, cardiac and stroke, metabolic dysfunction (type 2 diabetes), depression, and cancer.<sup>5</sup> Many of these upposeds consequences of OSA overlap with changes seen in aging. This has motivated speculation on the bidirectional causal relationships that could exist between these overlapping conditions. Further complicating this science is that, symptomatic OSA is clinically more prominent, although not less common, in middle age in the elderly. It may also cause progressive damage over time that manifests only later, while OSA itself may change character and become less evident with aging.

## Methodology

This is a cross sectional study random sampling has been taken for this study. Data were collected through face to face interview. Participants will be recruited from community centers, retirement homes, and healthcare facilities within a specified geographic area. The duration of this study one year. The inclusion criteria of this study include 1. Elderly individuals aged 65 years and above. 2. Both male and female participants. 3. Willingness to participate in the study and provide informed consent. 4. Diagnosed with musculoskeletal pain or sleep apnea, or reporting symptoms related to these conditions. Exclusion criteria was 2. Refusal to participate in the study or inability to provide informed consent. 3. Severe cognitive impairment that would impair understanding and participation in the study. 4. Presence of other chronic conditions or comorbidities that may significantly affect the study outcomes (e.g., severe cardiovascular disease, terminal illness). 5. History of significant psychiatric disorders or substance abuse that may confound the results.

## Procedure:

The participants were educated regarding nature of the study. The participation is voluntary. A consent form was filled before recruit in study. Scales and questionnaires used in this study.

- 1) The Pittsburgh sleep quality index: this is a questionnaire that is used to evaluate sleeping problems. It includes the assessment of different aspects of sleep. It tells us the quantity and quality of sleep. This scale has 19 self-rated questions.
- 2) Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) The Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) is a patient-reported outcome measure created by Yesavage et al. in 1982 to check for depressive symptoms among older adults. This screening tool has 30 items, but several shorter versions were also developed.
- 3) WHO Quality of Scale Brief (WHOQOL-BREF) is a 26-item instrument consisting of four domains: physical health (7 items), psychological health (6 items), social relationships (3 items), and environmental health (8 items); it also contains QOL and general health items. The physical health domain includes items on mobility, daily activities, functional capacity, energy, pain, and sleep. The psychological domain measures self-image, negative thoughts, positive attitudes, self-esteem, mentality, learning ability, memory concentration, religion, and the mental status. The social relationships domain contains questions on personal relationships, social support.

## Result

There was statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male Pittsburgh sleep quality index scale with  $P < 0.05$ . There was greater sleep score in female than male. There was no statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male in geriatric depression scale with  $P > 0.05$ . There was no such difference in mean depression score between female and male. There was statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male in geriatric pain measure scale with  $P < 0.05$ . Female had greater pain score than male mean old age female had more pain than old age male. There was no statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male in the Epworth sleepiness scale with  $P > 0.05$ . There was no such difference in mean sleepiness score between female and male. There was statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male in WHO quality of life (physical health) scale with  $P < 0.05$ . Male had greater quality of life score in physical health than female. There was statistical significance difference between old age female and old age male in WHO quality of life (psychological) scale with  $P < 0.05$ . Male had greater quality of life score in psychological than female.

Tools	Female (mean $\pm$ SD)	Male (mean $\pm$ SD)	t value	P-value	Result
Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index	7.30 $\pm$ 2.169	6.44 $\pm$ 1.473	2.319	0.022	Significant
Geriatric Depression Scale	6.00 $\pm$ 1.370	5.72 $\pm$ 1.310	1.044	0.299	Insignificant
Geriatric Pain Measure	50.054 $\pm$ 14.624	43.076 $\pm$ 12.381	2.575	0.012	Significant
The Epworth Sleepiness Scale	7.82 $\pm$ 2.593	7.48 $\pm$ 2.375	0.684	0.496	Insignificant
WHOQOL Domain 1 (Physical health)	49.942 $\pm$ 11.591	55.574 $\pm$ 11.291	2.461	0.016	Significant
WHOQOL Domain 2 (Psychological)	47.304 $\pm$ 9.397	51.966 $\pm$ 8.841	2.555	0.012	Significant
WHOQOL Domain 3 (Social relationship)	42.8 $\pm$ 16.223	47.958 $\pm$ 14.341	1.684	0.095	Insignificant
WHOQOL Domain 4 (Environment)	52.95 $\pm$ 10.419	55.068 $\pm$ 8.518	1.113	0.269	Insignificant

## Discussion

Our study investigated the complex interplay between gender differences and various health domains among elderly individuals. The findings reveal important insights into the disparities in behavioural components, musculoskeletal pain, psychosocial factors, and sleep apnea, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive healthcare approaches in this population.<sup>6</sup>

Gender emerged as a significant factor influencing behavioral components among elderly individuals. Women tended to engage in lower levels of physical activity compared to men, which may be attributed to societal norms, caregiving responsibilities, and age-related physical limitations. Addressing these gender-specific barriers through tailored exercise programs and support services is essential for promoting physical activity and overall health in elderly women. Dietary habits also exhibited gender differences, with women often adhering to healthier eating patterns compared to men.<sup>7</sup> However, disparities in nutrient intake and dietary quality warrant attention, particularly in the context of nutritional interventions aimed at preventing age-related chronic diseases. Substance use patterns varied by gender, with men exhibiting higher rates of alcohol and tobacco consumption compared to women.<sup>8</sup> Gender-sensitive substance abuse interventions should consider the unique risk factors and motivations driving substance use among elderly individuals, ensuring targeted support and resources are available to both gender.

Gender disparities in musculoskeletal pain were evident, with women reporting higher prevalence and severity of pain compared to men. This finding aligns with existing literature highlighting gender differences in pain perception and coping strategies.<sup>9, 10</sup> The influence of hormonal factors, psychosocial factors, and underlying musculoskeletal conditions on pain experiences merits further investigation to inform personalized pain management strategies for elderly individuals. Psychosocial factors significantly impacted health outcomes in elderly individuals, with gender playing a pivotal role in shaping social support networks, loneliness, and mental health status.<sup>11</sup> Women often reported higher levels of social support but also experienced greater feelings of loneliness, highlighting the complex interplay between gender roles, social relationships, and emotional well-being.<sup>12</sup> Culturally sensitive interventions that address gender-specific psychosocial needs are essential for mitigating loneliness and promoting mental health among elderly individuals.<sup>13</sup>

Gender differences in sleep apnea prevalence and presentation underscored the importance of tailored diagnostic and treatment approaches. Men exhibited higher rates of sleep-disordered breathing and were more likely to experience severe symptoms such as snoring and daytime sleepiness.<sup>14</sup> However, the underdiagnosis and undertreatment of sleep apnea in women emphasize the need for increased awareness and screening efforts, particularly among elderly females. Our findings have important implications for healthcare providers, policymakers, and researchers working with elderly populations. Gender-sensitive healthcare approaches that consider the unique needs and experiences of elderly individuals are essential for optimizing health outcomes and promoting equitable access to care. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies to elucidate the causal pathways linking gender to health outcomes and explore the effectiveness of gender-sensitive interventions in improving overall well-being in elderly individuals.

## Conclusion

Gender variations in behavior may influence how individuals experience and cope with musculoskeletal pain and psychosocial factors, highlighting the importance of personalized treatment approaches. Additionally, addressing sleep apnea in the elderly requires considering gender-specific risk factors and symptoms to

ensure effective management and improved overall health outcomes. Further research into gender-specific interventions and strategies is warranted to optimize healthcare delivery for elderly individuals. The cross-sectional nature of our study limits our ability to establish causality or infer temporal relationships between gender differences and health outcomes. Longitudinal studies are needed to elucidate the dynamic nature of these associations over time. Our study sample may not fully represent the diversity of elderly individuals, particularly those from underrepresented populations or with severe health conditions.

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