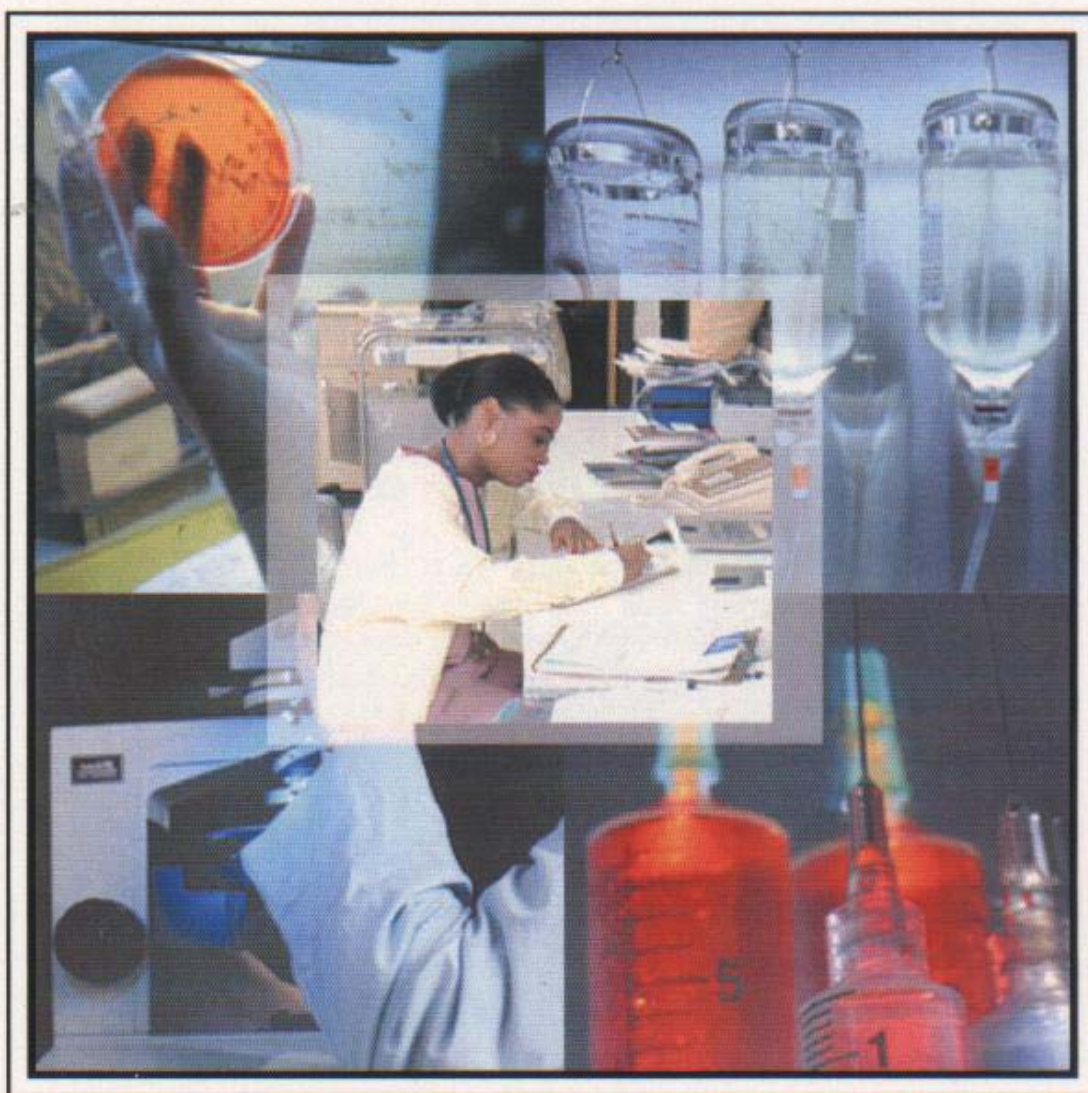



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Mammography Use May Partially Mediate Disparities in Tumor Size at Diagnosis in Women with Social Security Disabilities

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M. E. Caban, MD
Yong-Fang Kuo, PhD
Jonathan D. Mahnken, PhD
Margaret A. Nosek, PhD
J. L. Freeman, PhD

Objective: *This study determined the association between screening mammography and tumor size at diagnosis in older women whose original reason for entitlement to Medicare benefits was disability (SSDI).*

Methods: *A retrospective study of female Medicare beneficiaries older than 69 years diagnosed with breast cancer using Surveillance Epidemiological End Results (SEER)-Medicare linked database. Multiple linear regression techniques were used to determine the effect of screening mammography use on tumor size.*

Main Findings: *The total number of women was 413 with SSDI and 8,989 without. Bivariate analysis showed that significantly fewer women with SSDI used screening mammography (45% vs. 38%, $P = 0.0006$) during the two years prior to diagnosis. Mean tumor size at diagnosis was 2.91 mm (95% CI = 1.10, 4.73) larger in the group with SSDI.*

Conclusion: *This study found that older women whose original reason for Medicare benefits was disability present with larger tumors at breast cancer diagnosis compared to those who were not. Screening mammography may partially mediate the disparity.*

KEYWORDS. Disability, Social Security Administration, screening mammography, breast cancer, tumor size, disparity

Gender Differences in Clinical Features
of Depressed Outpatients: Preliminary Evidence
for Subtyping of Depression?

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Jack Dekker, PhD

Jurrijn A. Koelen, MA

Jaap Peen, MA

Robert A. Schoevers, MD, PhD

Cecile Gijsbers-Van Wijk, PhD

Background: Gender differences in depression are usually associated with prevalence, severity, and sometimes with specific syndromes or subtypes. However, a lack of differentiation exists between these factors.

Aims: To disentangle depression severity and the specific items endorsed by men and women and thus explore the presence of gender-specific subtypes.

Method: A group of 963 men and women treated for depression in the period 1993-2002 were matched on demographic characteristics. This resulted in a group of 353 men and 453 women (N = 806) on which all subsequent analyses were performed. Five instruments were used: the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D), SCL-90 subscales for depression (DEP), anxiety (ANX) and somatic complaints (SOMC), and the Quality of Life Depression Scale (QLDS). Total scores and individual-item scores were compared for men and women using ANOVA. A cluster analysis was performed on the three SCL-90 subscales. The distribution of gender over the clusters was tested with Pearson Chi-square.

Results: No gender differences were found in depression severity on the HAM-D. Women reported more symptoms on the DEP and the SOMC ($p < 0.01$). No gender differences were found on the QLDS. Of the SOMC items, 58% differentiated between men and women, whereas 31% of the DEP items and 30% of the ANX items detected gender differences. Using cluster analysis, a five-cluster solution was found with good face validity and reliability. Men and women were distributed differently over the five clusters such that women were overrepresented in those clusters in which the SOMC was high, while men were overrepresented in clusters in which SOMC was low ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: It may be useful to delineate syndrome of somatic complaints in the context of depression that is more prevalent among women.

KEYWORDS. Depression, gender differences, subtypes, atypical depression, somatic complaints

Internal and External Contributors to Maternal Mental Health
and Marital Adaptation One Year After Birth:
Comparisons of Mothers of Pre-Term
and Full-Term Twins

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Liora Findler, PhD

Orit Taubman - Ben-Ari, PhD

Kuint Jacob, MD

This longitudinal study examined the contribution of infants' temperament, mother's attachment style, and perceived grandmother's support following delivery, to

the psychological mental health and marital adaptation of first time and non-first time Israeli mothers of pre-term (n = 70) and full-term (n = 78) twins, a year later. We collected data for the current study over 2 years (2003-2004).

The findings suggested that the extent of mothers' personal and familial stress and their internal resource of attachment style played a crucial role in their mental health and marital adaptation. The external resource of grandmother's support contributed directly to the mothers' marital adaptation, whereas it contributed to their mental health only when infant's temperament was perceived to be difficult. Interestingly, the association between stress and adaptation was stronger among mothers of full-term twins than mothers of pre-term twins. Theoretical and clinical implications are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Mental health, marital adaptation, mothers of full-term and pre-term twins

Abuse History and Premenstrual Symptomatology: Assessing the Mediating Role of Perceived Stress

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M. Kathleen B. Lustyk, PhD

Laura Widman, MA

Linda de Laveaga Becker, BS

The present study assessed the interrelationships among abuse history (Abuse), perceived stress (Stress), and premenstrual symptom severity reports (PMSR) among female college students (N = 91, 18-25 years old), and determined if Stress mediated the relationship between Abuse and PMSR. Abuse history was noted by 44% of women in this sample, including sexual (25%), physical (11%), or both sexual and physical (8%) abuse. Importantly, results showed significant positive relationships between Abuse, Stress, and PMSR, suggesting Abuse affects psychological and physical aspects of women's health. Overall, women rated PMSR affect symptoms highest, and abused women rated pain and water retention higher than non-abused women. Stress did not fully mediate the relationship between Abuse and PMSR in this study, but accounted for 24% of the variance between these variables. The health implications of these findings are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Sexual abuse, physical abuse, perceived stress, premenstrual symptomatology

"How to Say It": Women's Descriptions of Pelvic Pain

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Victoria M. Grace, PhD

Sara MacBride-Stewart, PhD

The present research aimed to compare women's descriptions of chronic pelvic pain, when talking about their pain in narrative mode, with the descriptors used in a common pain assessment tool, the McGill Pain Questionnaire (MPQ). Our intention was to see what we could learn about the relationship between words used in these kinds of assessment tools and meanings of pain experience evident in narratives. This New Zealand-based qualitative study used open-ended interviewing to generate women's experiential narratives of pelvic pain. Forty women of

European descent were recruited via a randomly selected national prevalence survey on chronic pelvic pain: 33 had chronic pelvic pain that was not associated with dysmenorrhoea or dyspareunia (CPP); 38 had dysmenorrhoea; 29 had dyspareunia; 24 had all three. The study group was aged between 22 and 51 years. The differences that emerged between the words used by women and those used in the MPQ vocabulary are described. Two main findings emerged: a difference in the relative emphasis placed on sensory descriptors and the absence in women's narratives of affective words used in the MPQ. However, a predominance of an affective dimension of pain was evident in women's narratives, which is described. Given the narrative specificity of the experience of pelvic pain, we conclude that assessment tools using the words and phrases evident in narratives of pain would potentially be more useful, and that such a pain assessment tool would ideally be used in association with narrative techniques incorporated into the clinician's interview with women who present with chronic pelvic pain.

KEYWORDS. Chronic pelvic pain, narrative, descriptors, McGill Pain Questionnaire

Examination of Body Image Issues and Willingness to Be Body Scanned

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Tanya Domina, MS, MBA

Roschelle Heuberger, PhD, RD

Maureen MacGillivray, PhD

This project examined body image issues using 3D body scanning technology. Twenty years of research on body image indicates that though thinness is culturally desirable, possessing an ideal body does not guarantee that women will be satisfied with their bodies. Furthermore, the disconnect continues to widen between the reality of a heavier American woman and the thinner western feminine ideal necessitating the continued need for body image research. This study included 240 female college students enrolled in a mid-sized university. Phase I included a questionnaire of several different measures of body image satisfaction/dissatisfaction, a description of the body scanner including a 3D image, as well as standard demographic questions and estimates of height and weight. Of the initial 240 participants, 85 women agreed to participate in the body scanning portion (Phase II) of the research project. A majority of the women chose an ideal figure thinner than their current figure. Self-esteem scores were significantly correlated with Eating Attitudes Test (EAT) scores. Neither level of body dissatisfaction nor self-esteem scores were significantly associated with willingness to be body scanned, despite the fact that body scanning involves significant body exposure and that the resulting 3D image is highly realistic. Due to the novelty of body scanning technology and its application to body image research, these findings represent an innovative contribution to the field.

KEYWORDS. Body image, body scanning