

Annual Conference Hot Topics

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THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS & PAIN IN WOMEN WAITING FOR GYNAECOLOGICAL SURGERY



DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Funding: Dr. VanDenKerkhof - CIHR operating grant (#79522)



Background

- In 2005 - 1.6 million Canadians - elective surgery
- 66% / \approx 200,000 people difficulty in accessing healthcare
(Canadian Institute for Health Information/Statistics Canada, 2006)
- Wait Time Strategy



Background

- Waiting for healthcare - influencing health conditions
- 44%
49 - 71 % } affected by worry,
stress & anxiety

(Statistics Canada, 2001/2006)

- Pain prevalence
- Pain whilst waiting





Waiting for gynaecological surgery

- Psychological - anxiety
depression
- Physical - pain



Purpose of Research

- Describe the characteristics of women on a waiting list for gynaecological surgery.

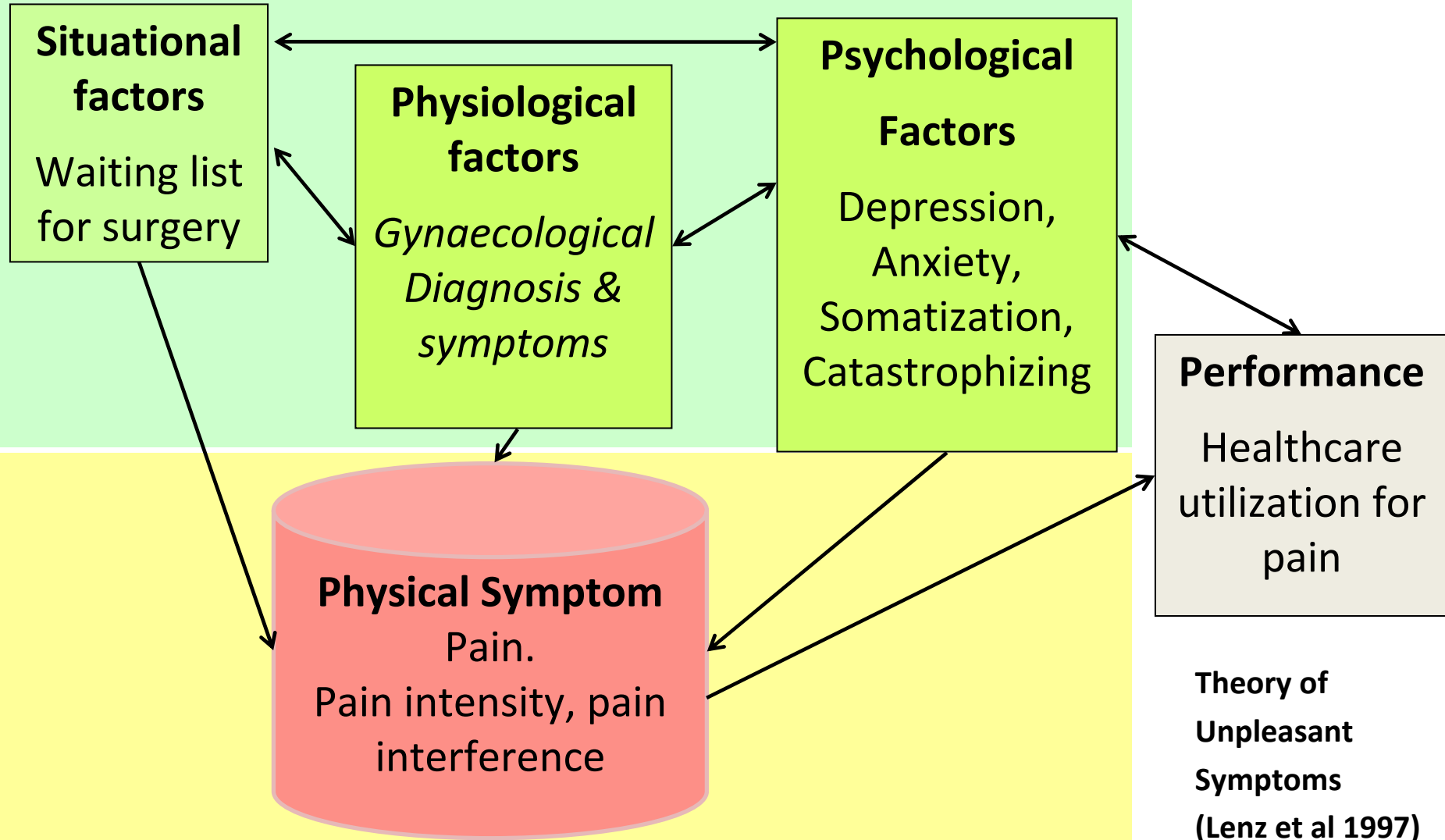


Research Objectives

- Describe the symptoms experienced by women waiting for gynaecological surgery.
- Describe the association between psychological symptoms & pain intensity/pain interference.



Application of Conceptual Framework



Measurement Tools

- **Anxiety** - State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI)
- **Depression** - Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)
- **Somatization** - Seven Symptom Screening Test (SSST)
- **Catastrophizing** - abbreviated Coping Strategies Questionnaire (CSQ)
- **Pain** - Brief Pain Inventory (BPI)



Analysis

Categorical Variables

Frequency

Percentages

Continuous Variables

Means

S.D.

Range

I.Q.R.

Bivariate analysis - Chi square

Multivariate analysis - Logistic Regression ($\geq 3/10$)



Study Findings

- 635 approached
- 441 recruited
- 429 complete
- Age 18-83 yrs
- Mean age 48 yrs (S.D. 11)
- Caucasian 93%

- ❖ Hysterectomy 77%
- ❖ Ovarian or tubal 12%
- ❖ Others – 11% (Exploratory/ pelvic floor)



Study Findings

- 226 women with pain (81% believed due to gynaecological condition)
- Moderate to severe pain intensity and/or interference in 1/3 of women

During the past week	Median pain intensity score
At its worst	6.0
At its least	3.0
On average	4.0
Right now	3.0

Study Findings



During the past week	Median pain Interference score
General activity; mood; walking; normal work; relations with others; enjoyment of life	5.0
Sleep	6.0

Study Findings

Pain Intensity



Variable (Reference Category)		Multivariate Analysis	
		O.R.	C.I.
Depression (none)	Mild-severe	2.0	1.2, 3.3
Somatization (low)	Mod/high	2.8	1.7, 4.5
Catastrophizing (low)	Mod/high	4.0	2.5, 6.6

Study Findings

Pain Interference



Variable (Reference Category)		Multivariate Analysis	
		O.R.	C.I.
Age (≥56 years)	18-44 yrs	2.4	1.2, 4.6
Depression (none)	Mild-severe	3.0	1.8, 4.8
Somatization (low)	Mod/high	2.2	1.3, 3.4
Catastrophizing (low)	Mod/high	2.4	1.5, 3.9

Conclusions

This study provides an improved understanding:

- Evidence of unpleasant symptoms on waiting experience
- Supports need for pre-op assessment
- Improve patient care and patient satisfaction despite waiting times.



Future Research & Practice

- Implement care pathway planning:
 - pain management
 - psychological support
- Examine interventions / impact on patients

**Aim to reduce symptoms suffered by women
whilst waiting for surgery**



Strengths

&

Limitations



- Sample size
 - Comprehensive data
 - Homogeneous population
 - Minimal Missing data
 - Short time-frame for recall of physical and psychological factors
- Cross sectional data
 - Self-reported questionnaires
 - Direction of causal link not known
 - Potential for population bias
 - Potential for recall bias



Acknowledgements



Principle Investigator

VanDenKerkhof E.

Co-investigators

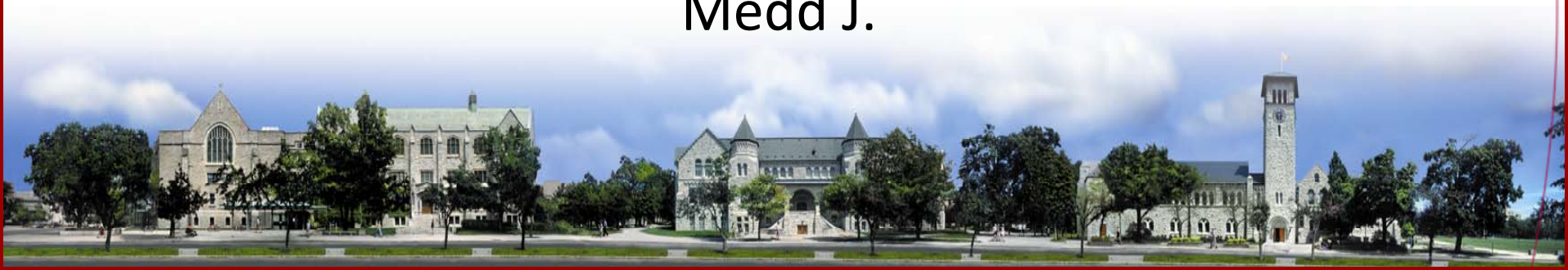
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Collaborators

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Any Questions?



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