



Quality of Life and Satisfaction Are Related to Mobility for Patients with a Lower-Limb Amputation

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INTRODUCTION

Lower-limb amputation is considered a major health event that can negatively impact a person’s functional mobility (Hafner, 2017). Restoring mobility should be considered a primary goal of the rehabilitation process. A general rehabilitation goal is improved quality of life and satisfaction with one’s condition.

The purpose of this study was to assess the relationship between mobility and both quality of life and satisfaction for patients with a lower-limb prosthesis. It was hypothesized that mobility would be positively correlated with both quality of life and satisfaction.

METHOD

Subjects: 509 participants were included for analysis (m: 363; age: 56.4±14.6 years; height:175.0±14.1 cm; mass: 91.9±24.2 kg; cause of amputation: vascular disease/diabetes/infection: 250; injury: 163; cancer: 23; congenital: 22; other: 30; unknown: 21; amputation level: BK: 350; AK: 108; PFA: 1; bilateral: 53).

Apparatus: Prosthetic Limb Users Survey of Mobility (PLUS-M) (Hafner, 2017) for mobility and Prosthesis Evaluation Questionnaire – Well Being (PEQ-WB) (Legro, 1998) for satisfaction and quality of life.

Procedures: Retrospective database review of outcomes collected within multiple prosthetic clinics.

Data Analysis: Pearson correlations were used to test correlations between PLUS-M T-score and each component score of PEQ-WB (quality of life and satisfaction).

RESULTS

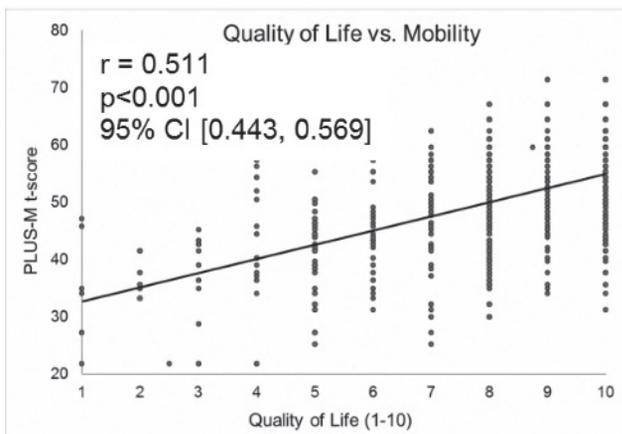


Figure 1. Quality of life was strongly and positively correlated to mobility.

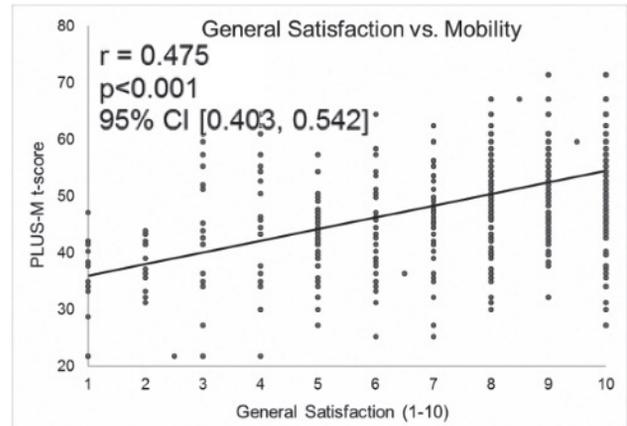


Figure 2. Satisfaction was strongly and positively correlated to Mobility.

DISCUSSION

The close relationship between both quality of life and satisfaction with mobility should be fully appreciated in patients with lower-limb amputation. In the current study, the significant relationships between mobility and both quality of life and satisfaction highlight the importance of maximizing mobility in patients with lower-limb loss, both for the associated immediate functional benefits as well as its potential influence on the generalized domains of both quality of life and satisfaction in this population.

CONCLUSION

While prosthetic rehabilitation has traditionally placed large emphasis on improving and maximizing mobility, more recently rehabilitation has started to focus on both the quality of life and general satisfaction of the affected individuals. This study provides evidence that mobility is positively related to both considerations. Thus, in the holistic care of a patient with lower-limb loss, maximizing mobility should be considered a primary goal.

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

In a changing healthcare climate, there is increasing importance on showing that prosthetic rehabilitation plays a valuable role in the holistic care of patients. This study shows that quality of life and satisfaction are greater for lower-limb prosthesis users with increased mobility.

REFERENCES

Hafner BJ, et al. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2017;98(2):277–85.
Legro MW, et al. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 1998(8);79:931–38.