Gender Satisfaction Among Women Aging with Paralytic Polio

Janiece L. Walker, MSN, RN & Tracie Harrison, PhD, RN, FNP

**Background:** Doing gender occurs when a person attempts to meet the expectations society has placed on them to fulfill their role as a male or female. A person’s ability to fulfill appropriate gendered roles and satisfaction with gender may change as they age or if they experience disability. Researchers have shown that satisfaction with gender outcomes among women improves after age 55. However when older women have had chronic conditions that led to functional limitations followed by disability, they may perceive their ability to do gender differently, and may be less likely to be satisfied with their gendered outcomes.

**Purpose:** The investigators developed and psychometrically tested the Gendered Outcome Scale among women aging with the effects of paralytic polio.

**Sample:** A total of 286 women ranging in age from 55-83 years were included, 76% of the women had children, 86% were never married, and 68% were non-Hispanic White.

**Analysis:** Descriptive statistics, Pearson's Correlations, and reliability tests were used.

**Findings:** The Cronbach alpha for the newly developed five- item scale was .89. There was a significant relationship between age and functional limitations with gendered outcome. The younger women in this sample had higher satisfaction with gendered outcomes \[r (284)= -.185, p < .01\], however an increase in functional limitations was indicative of less satisfaction with gendered outcomes \[r (284)= .169, p< .01\].

**Conclusion:** Data suggest that the Gendered Outcome Scale is a valid and reliable. Further work is needed to examine gendered outcomes in diverse aging populations, using a gerontological feminist perspective.
Statement of Timeliness: This abstract should be considered for the late breaker’s session because there is a dearth of literature examining gendered outcomes in women aging with disabilities. This research will introduce the newly developed Gendered Outcome Scale, which can be used for future studies that are necessary to fill the gap in the literature. The Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting is the most appropriate venue for presenting this newly developed scale.

Objectives: 1) To test the reliability and validity of the Gendered Outcome Scale by conducting a reliability test and at least two correlational tests.

Names/Affiliations of Authors:

Janiece L. Walker, MSN, RN
Doctoral Student
2012-2014 JAHF Patricia Archbold Scholar
The University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing
512-696-5131
1700 Red River, Austin, TX 78701
jl_walker@utexas.edu

Tracie Harrison, PHD, RN,
Associate Professor
2011-12 APSA Health and Aging Policy Fellow
School of Nursing
The University of TX at Austin
512-471-9085
1700 Red River
Austin, TX 78701
tharrison@mail.nur.utexas.edu