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Nagyova, Iveta

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Self-Rated Health and Quality of Life in Slovak Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients

Iveta Nagyová
6 april 2005

- 1 Rheumatoid arthritis has far-reaching consequences for various aspects - physical, social and psychological - of patients' quality of life, even in the first years after diagnosis. (*this thesis*)
- 2 The psychological distress of Slovak rheumatoid arthritis patients is comparable to that of Western European patients. (*this thesis*)
- 3 Early rheumatoid arthritis patients may require additional interventions on emotional issues beyond those provided by standard care. (*this thesis*)
- 4 The relationship between pain and psychological well-being can be significantly influenced by the patient's levels of self-esteem and adjustment to disease. (*this thesis*)
- 5 Pain and disability are important determinants of self-rated health, but psychological well-being is the most important. (*this thesis*)
- 6 Quality of life questionnaires should incorporate at least one global question about overall health - preferably self-rated health.
- 7 The model of health includes health status, fitness, well-being and quality of life and is given preference over the disease model.
- 8 Chronic disease, disability and early death are destructive forces in the lives of communities.
- 9 International co-operation in research is an answer to increasing international competition.
- 10 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. (*Kohelet*)

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