Osteoarthritis (OA) is a degenerative condition caused by the wearing down of cartilage surrounding the joints. This often results in a reduced quality of life, immobility, and chronic pain. Considering that 1 in 6 Canadians is affected by OA, research into its impacts on patients and their family caregivers (a friend or family member who provide the most unpaid care) is warranted. Our research aims to identify the impacts of providing care for an individual undergoing total knee replacement due to OA on their family caregivers. This qualitative study consists of semi-structured interviews of family caregivers of patients who have undergone total knee replacement. We will recruit 15 family caregivers to participate in a 45-minute interview. The family caregivers will be asked questions regarding the impacts of their family member’s total knee replacement including physical and emotional well-being, career, and social life.

Discussions will be audiotaped and transcribed verbatim for thematic analysis. The study will contribute to building a better understanding of OA impacts on family caregivers. The application of our results can provide useful knowledge to healthcare personnels such as potential impact so that they can support both patients and family caregivers prior to, during and post-treatment. Areas of future research should include the efficacy of resources developed to support family caregivers. In addition, the findings can help us to make recommendations for the development of educational resources for family caregivers which include strategies for dealing with the impacts of a family member’s total knee replacement.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | Culture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

This is a well written abstract. It is clearly catering to a generalist audience and appropriate for a multidisciplinary conference like MURC.