

Developing an "evidence-based framework" for whole person care utilizing well-being scales of the four dimensions of human existence: physical, psychological, social, and spiritual.

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Objective:

The purpose of this study is to develop a theoretical framework to practice whole-person medical care by finding relationships among the four dimensions of the whole person: (a) physical, (b) psychological, (C) social, and (d) spiritual.

Methods:

- 1) Clarifying the concept of the whole person.
- 2) Identifying well-being scales of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of a whole person.
- 3) Comparing and contrasting the scores of well-being scales to find out the correlations.
- 4) Building the framework to evaluate whole-person well-being.

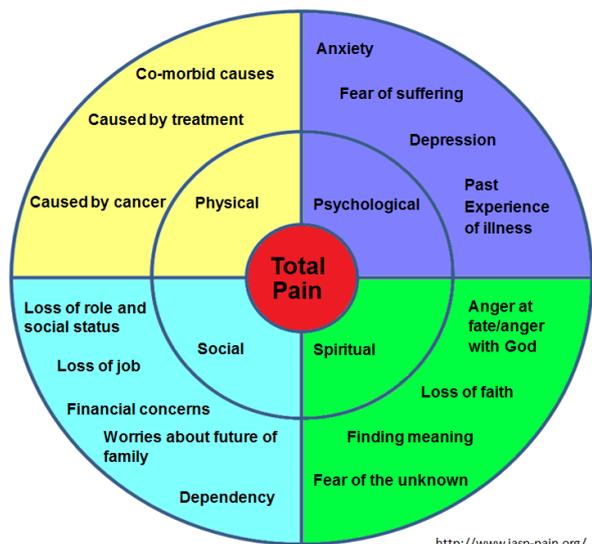
Physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of the human image are described. Today's fragmentation and integration in human activities are referred to, especially in regards to medical practices. Integration in the practice of whole-person medicine is related to the concept of Christian faith. Medical practice based on the objective reality in the four dimensions is described. The integration beyond fragmentation in four dimensions is suggested as an essential matter in Christian medical missions.

The theoretical backgrounds of the four dimensions are described. Their characteristics and nature are clarified by mentioning their strengths and weaknesses. The Biblical appropriateness of each approach is presented.

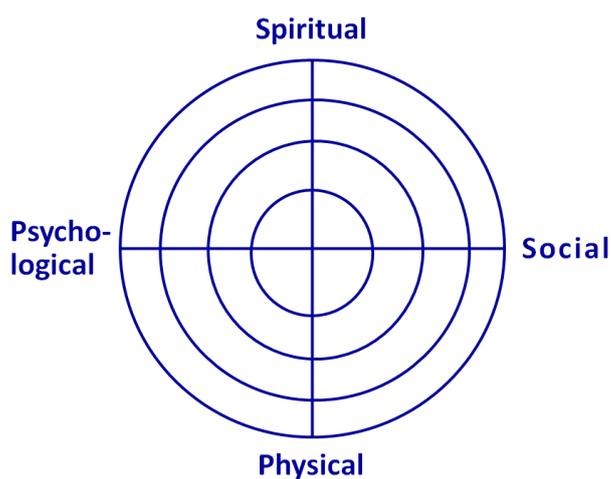
The appropriate scales for well-being in each dimension are determined from past research studies. The scales are evaluated for their validity and feasibility for this study. A framework for the correlations is developed.

Then contrasts and correlations among these scales are examined in order to find out the evidence for the need of spiritual care in whole-person medicine.

Concept of Total Pain (Cicely Saunders, 1978)



Well-Being Dimensional Chart



Results:

A theoretical base to integrate Christian faith with medicine is presented as the result of the study. Implications for the practice of medicine in the Christian hospital are suggested.

Spectrum of Spiritual Pain and Spiritual Well-being



Conclusions:

Verified inter-relational impacts of the dimensions are found out for better whole-person well-being. It is very important to identify well-being in the four dimensions of the whole person for better and effective care of human beings.

