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## IMPACT OF PAIN ON THE OUTCOMES OF DEPRESSION ACROSS AGE AND GENDER GROUPS IN CHINA

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**Objectives:** The aims of this study were to determine the presence of painful physical symptoms (PPS) and its impact on depression outcomes in different gender and age groups.

Methods: Three hundred in- and out-patients from China presenting with a new or first episode of major depressive disorder were enrolled in a 3-month prospective observational study from Asia (N=909). Hamilton Depression Scale (HAMD-17), Clinical Global Impression Severity (CGI-S), EuroQoL and the pain-related items of the Somatic Symptom Inventory were administered. Patients were classified into three age groups (<40,n=119; ≥40-<60,n=133; ≥60,n=48). Linear and logistic regression models were fitted to assess the relationship between PPS at baseline and outcomes.

Results: Older patients had higher HAMD-17 severity at baseline. HAMD score was 25.9 (SD 6.1) in ≥60 vs. 22.5 (SD 5.0) in <40 and 24.8 (SD 5.2) in ≥40-<60. There were no statistically significant differences in the proportion of patients with PPS across gender and age groups. During follow-up, depression severity improved. There were no statistically significant differences in the degree of improvement by gender, but there were differences by age group. Mean change in HAMD was -16.4 (95%CI -17.7;-15.1) for those <40, -19.9 (95%CI -21.1;-18.7) in 40-60 and -20.3 (95%CI -22.6;-17.9) in >60. PPS positive patients had worse clinical and quality of life outcomes across genders and age groups.

**Conclusions:** The presence of painful physical symptoms is associated with a lower improvement in depression outcomes and a lower quality of life in patients with major depression across different gender and age groups.