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Development and testing of the psychometric properties of the inventory for assessment of the caregiving needs of family members before their older relative's knee joint-replacement surgery

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Osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common joint disorders in elderly. For those with OA who experience joint symptoms that substantially impact their quality of life and are refractory to non-surgical treatment, joint-replacement surgery is often considered. The role of family and spouses in supporting patients with OA is crucial but no studies are available to assess the caregiving needs before their older relative receiving the surgery. The purposes of this study were to develop an instrument for assessing the caregiving needs of family members before their older relative's knee joint-replacement surgery and determine its psychometrics. A cross-sectional survey was conducted. Participants (N=150) were recruited from three hospitals in Northern Taiwan. The 32-items of Family Members' Caring Needs Inventory (FMCNI) developed from previous qualitative interviews of 138 family members, intensive literature review and authors' clinical experiences were used. The content validity, construct validity, internal consistency reliability and test-retest reliability were examined. Results revealed that the FMCNI had excellent content validity. Factor analysis of FMCNI yielded a six-factors solution, accounting for 82.9% of the variance. The FMCNI had Cronbach's α and intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.94 and 0.93, respectively, indicating very high internal consistency reliability and test-retest reliability. The tested FMCNI can be completed in 5-7 minutes. It is perceived as easy to complete and yielded highly acceptable level of validity and reliability.

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