Social connection in long-term care home residents (SONNET) Study- A Systematic Review

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Introduction

- Social connection is a **basic human need**, and influences quality of life and care for older adults in long-term care (LTC) homes (1).
- LTC home residents experience poor social connection due to cognitive impairment(s), mobility impairment(s), and seclusion from former ways of life (2).
- Social connection is not clearly conceptualised or routinely reported as a measure of quality in LTC homes.
- This study aims to profile and describe existing measurement tools so that a new, comprehensive tool can be developed to assess social connection in LTC

Objectives

(1) **Identify** social connection tools tested in LTC homes

(2) **Describe** measurement tools according to the aspect(s) of social connection assessed.

(3) **Analyze** how dementia specific measurement tools may differ from those developed for broader use among all LTC home residents.

(4) **Appraise** measures of social connection for quality

Methods

- 8 databases searched from inception to April, 2022.

Inclusion Criteria: measures assessing any aspect of social connection, >2/3 LTC home residents, >2/3 65+ years, reported at least one psychometric property

COSMIN methodology to produce a detailed inventory of measures, their psychometric properties and overall quality.

Content analysis to describe and analyze the items included in each measure.

Preliminary Results

- **61** studies reporting **37** measurement tools
- **27** are measures of QoL, well-being or life satisfaction and include a subdomain on social connection.
- **10** measures specifically target social connection.

Psychometric Properties of 36 measures to date:

- 5 (14%) have sufficient structural validity
- 3 (8%) have sufficient internal consistency,
- 9 (25%) have sufficient reliability,
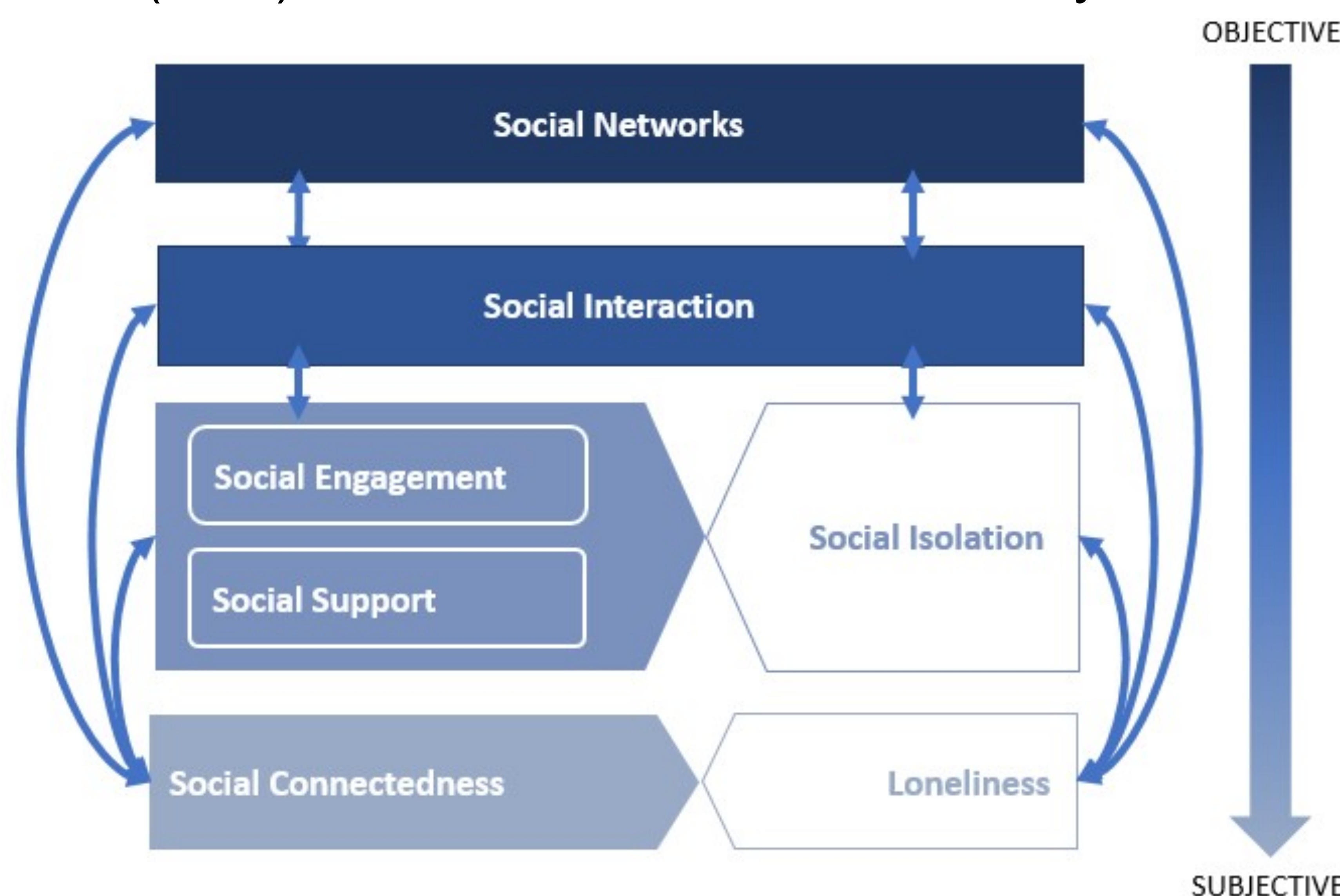- 6 (17%) have sufficient construct validity.

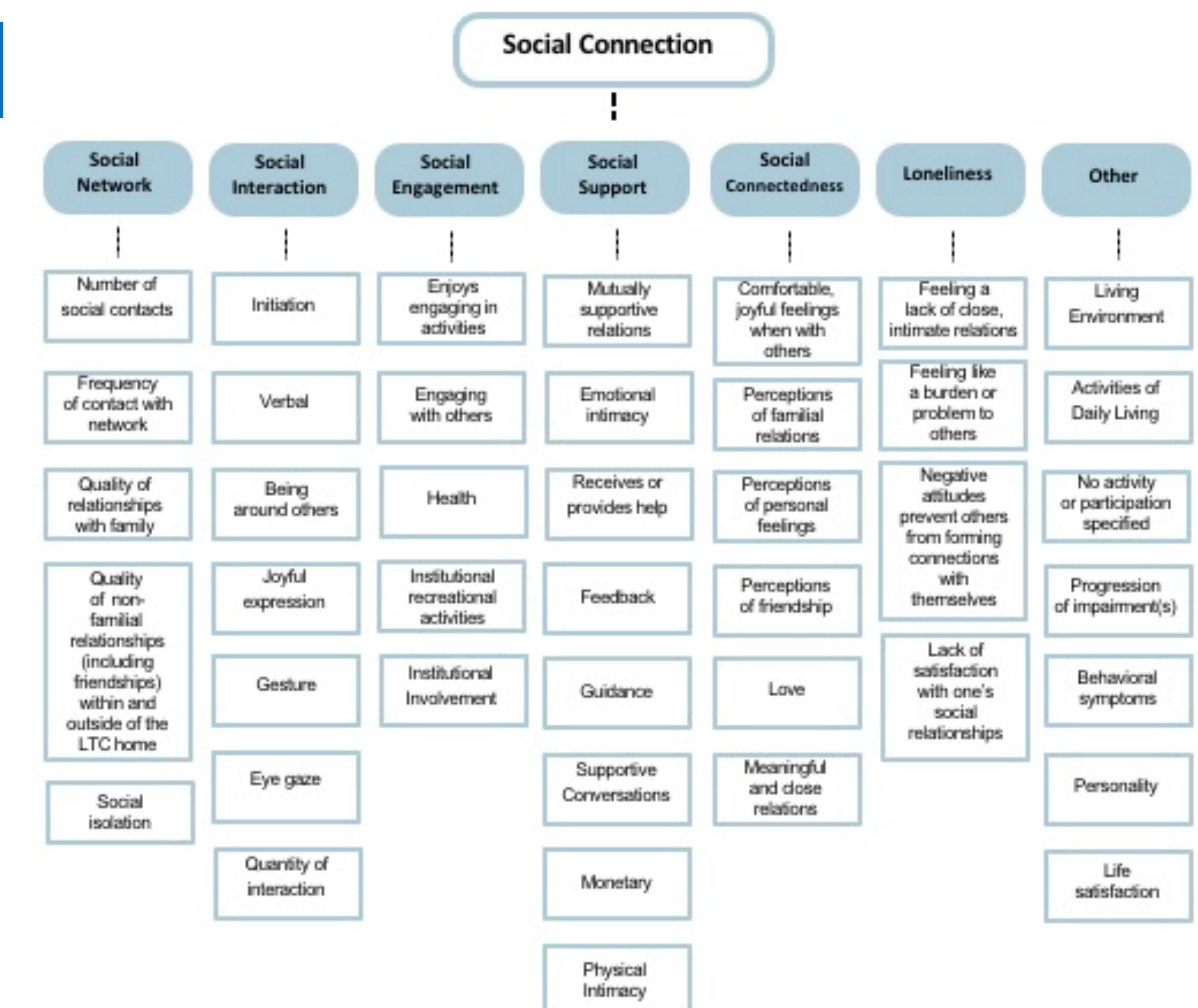Figure 1: The Conceptual Model of Social Connection

Figure 2. Sub-themes identified in social connection measurement tools

Discussion

Social connection has been defined inconsistently (Figure 1.) and most measures lack reliability and validity

Findings will inform the SONNET study's development and testing of a new measurement tool for social connection in LTC home residents

Acknowledgements

References

1. Bradshaw SA, et al. Age Ageing. 2012 Jul;41(4):429-40.
2. O'Rourke et al. BMC Geriatr. 2018 Dec;18(1):214.

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