

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau, namely the *Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases*, the *Health and Health Services Research Fund*, the *Health Care and Promotion Fund*, and the *Health Services Research Fund*. This edition presents 10 dissemination reports related to health services and health promotion, mental health, and oncology. Three of the reports deserve to be highlighted, owing to their potentially significant findings, impact on health care delivery and practice, and/or contribution to health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

Heart failure is a chronic disabling condition and is one of the top five reasons for hospital admission among the elderly. Its management requires advanced pharmacotherapy and effective self-care behaviour by affected patients. However, a better understanding of such self-care behaviour is hampered by a lack of a suitable instrument that addresses the linguistic and cultural background of Chinese people. Yu et al<sup>1</sup> translated and adapted two self-care management and behaviour instruments and evaluated their psychometric properties and associated administrative burden in 143 Chinese heart failure patients attending an outpatient clinic. The investigators found that both instruments were culturally and conceptually relevant for measuring self-care of Chinese heart failure patients in Hong Kong. While these initial results are encouraging, further work will be necessary to determine the wider applicability of these instruments.

It is well recognised that the number and severity of health-related problems increase with age. Among elderly men, genitourinary problems and mood disorders are common. In the first study of its kind, Wong et al<sup>2</sup> studied the prevalence, incidence and risk factors of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), erectile dysfunction and depression in a sample of 1744 Hong Kong Chinese men and investigated the association of these health problems with quality of life. Notwithstanding the limitations of the study due to the voluntary nature of the responses, this large-scale prospective study demonstrated an association between LUTS and clinically relevant depressive symptoms. Physicians need to consider the mental health implications of genitourinary problems in their elderly patients.

Neutropaenic fever is a common life-threatening complication of cancer chemotherapy. Its standard management entails hospitalisation and administration of empirical broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotics. Hui et al<sup>3</sup> aimed to validate two instruments for predicting the outcome of 227 adult Chinese cancer patients with febrile neutropaenia in the local health care setting. Ideally, such assessment tools should have a high positive predictive value, high sensitivity and specificity but a low misclassification rate. The Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer risk index was superior to the Talcott risk model in terms of a higher discriminative power for identifying low-risk patients. In future, patient management strategies may be refined to focus on high-risk patients, while allowing simplified management of low-risk patients.

We hope you will enjoy this selection of research dissemination reports. Electronic copies can be downloaded from the Research Fund Secretariat website (<http://www.fhb.gov.hk/grants>). Researchers interested in the funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau may also visit the website for detailed information about application procedures.

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## References

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2. Wong SY, Woo J, Leung PC. Genitourinary problems and mood disorders in elderly Chinese men in Hong Kong: an epidemiological cohort study. *Hong Kong Med J* 2010;16(Suppl 3):17-9.
3. Hui EP, Leung LK, Mo F. Evaluation of risk assessment tools and infectious aetiology in cancer patients with fever and neutropaenia in Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Med J* 2010;15(Suppl 3):34-7.