

1 **Relationships between illness representations, physical activity and**  
2 **depression in Chronic Kidney Disease**

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37

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39 None of the authors of this manuscript have any conflicts of interest to  
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42

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51 patient involvement and engagement, and qualitative exploration of patient  
52 perspectives and experience underpins all the work.

53

54 **Abstract**

55 Background: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is exacerbated by depression  
56 and confers significant healthcare costs. Whilst adverse impacts may be  
57 mitigated by physical activity, many patients with CKD remain physically  
58 inactive, with this physical inactivity potentially influenced by how CKD is  
59 appraised.

60 Objectives: The study aims to explore the relationship between physical  
61 activity, depression and illness representations in CKD.

62 Methods: Non-dialysing patients with CKD completed the Revised Illness  
63 Perception Questionnaire (IPQ-R), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II) and  
64 Short-Form International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ-SF) while  
65 demographic information was obtained via medical records. Correlation and  
66 regression analyses were conducted to determine the relationship of illness  
67 representations with levels of physical activity. Moderation and mediation  
68 analyses were performed to investigate the role of depression in any  
69 relationship between illness representations and physical activity levels.

70 Results: Seventy respondents, with a mean age of  $60 \pm 16$  years, the  
71 majority being male (60%), took part in the study. Of illness representation  
72 dimensions, personal control was positively associated with levels of  
73 physical activity ( $r=.288$ ,  $p<.05$ ) while timeline cyclical was a significant  
74 predictor (Beta $=-.423$ ,  $p=.008$ ). Severity of depression was neither a  
75 moderator ( $b= .023$ , 95% CI [-.015, .061],  $t=1.201$ ,  $p=.23$ ) nor a mediator  
76 ( $b=-.021$ , BCa CI [-.082, .008],  $p=.33$ ).

77 Conclusions: Facets of illness representations had significant relationships  
78 with levels of physical activity. Future research concerning the development  
79 and validation of psychological interventions based on an illness  
80 representations framework for patients with CKD not on renal-replacement  
81 therapy is proposed. The efficacy of such interventions could be then  
82 evaluated using a randomised controlled method.

83 **Introduction**

84

85 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is an irreversible long-term condition often  
86 undiagnosed until an advanced stage where costs can be significant for the  
87 individual and society (NICE 2015a). Adverse impacts of CKD appear  
88 exacerbated by co-morbid mental health problems (Tonelli *et al.* 2015).  
89 Depression is prevalent in individuals with CKD (EMPO 2010; NICE 2015b),  
90 where 20 to 30 per cent of patients meet diagnostic criteria (Cukor *et al.*  
91 2007) compared to point prevalence of 2 to 4 per cent in the general  
92 community and 5 to 10 per cent in primary care settings (Hedayati *et al.*  
93 2009). As CKD and depression have negative repercussions (Cruz *et al.*  
94 2010, Farrokhi *et al.* 2014, Teles *et al.* 2014), and depression is a significant  
95 co-morbidity magnifying adverse impact, increased attention has been  
96 drawn to possible interventions that might mitigate the impact of both CKD  
97 and depression.

98

99 Studies have found that engagement in physical activity and exercise  
100 accrues significant physiological benefits such as improved cardiovascular  
101 reactivity, eGFR and physical functioning and a reduction of inflammation  
102 for individuals with CKD (Kosmadakis *et al* 2012, Smith & Burton 2012,  
103 Gould *et al* 2014, Wilkinson *et al* 2018). A Cochrane review reported  
104 evidence demonstrating beneficial effects of physical activity on CKD and  
105 mood (Heiwe & Jacobson 2011).

106

107 Although activity and exercise have scope to mitigate the impact of CKD  
108 and alleviate depression in patients with CKD, many individuals do not  
109 undertake sufficient physical activity (Zamojska *et al.* 2006; Beddhu *et al.*  
110 2009; Avesani *et al.* 2012; Hayhurst & Ahmed 2015). Explanatory theories  
111 were developed to understand such phenomena and inform health  
112 behavioural change interventions (Nigg *et al.* 2002). Notable amongst these  
113 self-regulation models is Leventhal and Cleary's Common Sense Model  
114 (CSM) of illness representations (Leventhal & Cleary 1980). The CSM  
115 hypothesises that individuals with illnesses construct illness beliefs about  
116 their health conditions, which influence health-related behaviours such as  
117 the undertaking of physical activity.

118

119 Extensive research investigating how illness representations influence  
120 health behaviours in chronic illnesses, notably rheumatoid arthritis, chronic  
121 obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and multiple sclerosis (Hale *et al.*  
122 2007) has been conducted. However, there is a paucity of research  
123 exploring the relationship between illness representations and health  
124 behaviour in CKD. No known studies have examined the roles of illness  
125 representations in influencing the undertaking of physical activity for  
126 patients with CKD particularly those not receiving renal replacement therapy  
127 (also termed as patients with CKD-ND in this paper). Furthermore, illness  
128 representations were found to differ between dialysing and non-dialysing  
129 patients (Jansen *et al.* 2010; Jansen *et al.* 2013).

130

131 Hence, the current study aimed to determine if facets of illness  
132 representations are associated and predictive of levels of physical activity  
133 in patients with CKD-ND. This is of clinical importance as illness  
134 representations were found to be modifiable (Hale *et al.* 2007), potentially  
135 increasing physical activity, which mitigates the impact of CKD and  
136 depression. Besides that, depression was found to be associated with  
137 physical activity (Jekau & Brand 2017) and illness representations (Muscat  
138 *et al.* 2018). Thus, the secondary study aim was to investigate if the severity  
139 of depression has a moderating or mediating effect between illness  
140 representations and levels of physical activity.

141

142 **Materials and Methods**

143

144 *Design, setting and participants*

145 Participants were recruited through convenience sampling in a UK renal  
146 outpatient clinic from August 2016 to January 2017. A face-to-face  
147 approach was adopted whereby patients were approached randomly and  
148 introduced to the study. Eligible patients met the following inclusion criteria:  
149 (i) diagnosis of CKD and not on dialysis, (ii) male or female aged 18 years  
150 or above, (iii) were willing and able to give informed consent for study  
151 participation, and (iv) were able to complete the measures in English.  
152 Participants were given a study survey booklet to be taken away,  
153 completed, and returned within 10 days. Medical records were accessed  
154 after completed surveys were returned to extract relevant clinical details. All  
155 participants in the study provided informed consent. The study was  
156 sponsored by the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and approved  
157 by the London Queen Square Research Ethics Committee (ref  
158 16/LO/0980).

159

160 *Measures*

161 The International Physical Activity Questionnaire Short Form (IPAQ-SF), a  
162 seven-item self-report questionnaire was used to assess participants' levels  
163 of physical activity, which are categorised into four intensity levels: vigorous-  
164 intensity activity; moderate-intensity activity; walking and; sitting (Craig *et*  
165 *al.* 2003). The IPAQ-SF can be calculated as a continuous score by  
166 multiplying activities' metabolic equivalent (MET) with the time spent

167 (minutes) and the number of days engaged in those activities. Individuals  
168 can also be categorised into three levels of physical activity based on their  
169 categorical score, specifically, 'Inactive', 'Minimally Active' and 'Health  
170 Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) active' (IPAQ 2004).

171

172 The Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)-II, a 21-item self-report questionnaire  
173 was used to assess participants' severity of cognitive and somatic  
174 depressive symptoms in the past two weeks (Beck *et al.* 1988). Each item  
175 is rated on a four-point Likert scale ranging from 0 to 3, with higher overall  
176 scores reflecting greater severity of depression (Whisman & Richardson  
177 2015). The BDI-II total score is further categorised into the following  
178 depression severity categories: 'Minimal Depression' (0-13), 'Mild  
179 Depression' (14-19), 'Moderate Depression' (20-28) and 'Severe  
180 Depression' (29-63) (Beck *et al.* 1996). The BDI-II clinical cut off score of  $\geq$   
181 11 was established as having the best diagnostic accuracy for depressive  
182 disorder in patients with CKD-ND (Hedayati *et al.* 2012).

183

184 Facets of illness representations were assessed by the Illness Perceptions  
185 Questionnaire-Revised (IPQ-R). The IPQ-R is an 84-item self-report  
186 questionnaire that measures the five components of CSM (Moss-Morris *et al.*  
187 2002). The current study utilised the second section of the IPQ-R, which  
188 consists of seven subscales: consequences, timeline acute/chronic and  
189 cyclical, personal and treatment control/cure, illness coherence, and  
190 emotional representations (Hill 2010). Each item is rated on a five-point  
191 Likert-style scale (Hill 2010). Higher subscale scores reflect greater



192 endorsement of the given construct (Zoeckler *et al.* 2014). High scores on  
193 consequences, timeline acute/chronic, cyclical and emotional  
194 representation subscales represent negative illness beliefs that an illness  
195 has adverse impacts, is chronic, cyclical in nature and generates a negative  
196 emotional response respectively. Whereas high scores on illness  
197 coherence and personal and treatment control indicate positive illness  
198 beliefs where individuals understood their condition, felt in control over their  
199 condition and the treatment received controls/cures the illness.

200

#### 201 *Statistical methods*

202 Data analyses were performed using IBM SPSS statistics for Windows,  
203 version 24 (Armonk, NY: IBM Corp). Descriptive statistics were employed  
204 for participant characteristics. Continuous variables were described using  
205 mean and standard deviation while dichotomous variables were described  
206 using percentages. To ensure methodological robustness, non-normal data  
207 were transformed first to correct for distributional problems and to achieve  
208 normality. Subsequently, all analyses when applicable were bootstrapped  
209 using 1000 samples and computed based on a bias-corrected and  
210 accelerated (BCa) confidence interval.

211

212 Pearson correlations were used to investigate the associations between  
213 facets of illness representations and levels of physical activity. Hierarchical  
214 multiple regression analyses were used to model the relationships between  
215 facets of illness representations, levels of physical activity, and participant  
216 characteristics. As the study sample size is underpowered, Adjusted R

217 square values are reported (Pallant 2007). A post-hoc regression analysis  
218 was conducted with only the predictors that made a statistically significant  
219 contribution to the main regression analysis to address the small sample  
220 size issue. Mediation and moderation analyses were performed using  
221 Hayes' PROCESS macro for SPSS (Hayes 2012) to investigate the role of  
222 depression in the hypothesised relationship between dimensions of illness  
223 representations and level of physical activities.

224

225 For missing data, cases were excluded from the calculation of overall BDI  
226 score if there were more than one missing datum. On the IPQ-R, cases  
227 were excluded if more than two items are missing per subscale with the  
228 exception of subscales with less than six items where a maximum of one  
229 missing item is allowed. Expectation maximisation was used to manage the  
230 missing data for IPAQ-SF for correlation and regression analyses. Little's  
231 Missing Completely at Random (MCAR) test was run to ensure that missing  
232 data for IPAQ-SF were completely random (Little 1988). 'Treatment Control'  
233 subscale was excluded from regression analyses as the sample consisted  
234 of non-dialysing participants with conservative treatment. The subscale was  
235 considered lacking salience in predicting levels of physical activity, and  
236 simple correlation examined between treatment control and levels of  
237 physical activity yielded no significant association. All statistical analyses  
238 adopted a pairwise exclusion method.

239

240 **Results**

241

242 *Patient characteristics*

243 164 patients were approached, of these, 64 declined to take part in the  
244 study. 100 patients consented to participate, but 30 did not return the survey  
245 booklet and were withdrawn from the study. The final sample comprised 70  
246 patients with CKD-ND (43% participation rate). The majority of these were  
247 male (60%), identified as 'White British' (80%), with a mean age of  $60 \pm 16$   
248 years. Demographics and clinical data are reported in Table 1.

249

250 [Table 1]

251

252 *Levels of physical activity*

253 Approximately a third of the participants (35%) were sedentary, meeting the  
254 criteria of low/inactive level of physical activity, and thus considered  
255 insufficiently active. Whereas 39% individuals met the criteria of 'Minimally  
256 Active', achieving the recommended minimum level of activity for adults, but  
257 insufficient when considering total level of physical activity. Only 26% of the  
258 sample met the HEPA active category, which describes individuals as  
259 exceeding the minimum public health physical activity guidelines and  
260 leading a healthy lifestyle. The sample's median level of physical activity  
261 expended per week is 1386 MET-min, which meets the category 'Minimally  
262 Active'.

263 *Depression severity*

264 Participants generally reported 'Minimal Depression' with 63.2% of  
265 participants' scores in this category, 17.6% for 'Mild Depression, 11.8% for  
266 'Moderate Depression' and 7.4% for 'Severe Depression' (Table 2). The  
267 mean BDI-II score for the sample was  $12.0 \pm 9.6$  with a range of 0-45. Half  
268 (50%) of the participants had a BDI-II cut-off score of  $\geq 11$ .

269

270 [Table 2]

271

272 *Association of illness representations with levels of physical activity*

273 There was a small positive correlation between personal control and level  
274 of physical activity ( $r=.288$ ,  $p=.034$ ), suggesting that individuals who  
275 perceived themselves as having more personal control were more likely to  
276 engage in higher levels of physical activity. Correlations between timeline  
277 cyclical and levels of physical activity approached statistical significance ( $r=-$   
278  $.242$ ,  $p=.078$ ). No other components of illness representations were  
279 significantly associated with levels of physical activity. Findings are  
280 presented in Table 3.

281

282 [Table 3]

283

284 *Primary regression analysis*

285 The change in Adjusted R Square scores ( $\Delta R^2_{\text{Adjusted}}=.142$ ,  $p=.027$ )  
286 indicated that illness representation components accounted for 14.2% of the  
287 variance in IPAQ-SF scores after effects of age and eGFR were removed

288 (Table 4). Of illness representation components, only timeline cyclical  
289 (Beta=-.423,  $p=.008$ ) made a statistically significant contribution to the  
290 variance reported. Overall, Model 2 is significantly better at predicting the  
291 outcome with improvement greater than the inaccuracy within the model  
292 ( $F(8, 47)= 3.23, p=.005$ ). The variables in Model 2, including age and eGFR,  
293 contributed to 24.5% of the variance in IPAQ-SF scores ( $R^2_{Adjusted}=.245,$   
294  $p=.027$ ). Other than time cyclical, age is the only other predictor that made  
295 a significant unique contribution in Model 2 (Beta=-.353,  $p=0.41$ ). Timeline  
296 cyclical made the largest unique contribution between the two predictors.

297

298 [Table 4]

299

### 300 *Post-hoc regression analysis*

301 A post-hoc hierarchical multiple regression analysis (Table 5) was  
302 conducted with the significant predictors from the main analysis, age and  
303 timeline cyclical, as variables. Timeline cyclical accounted for 8.1% of the  
304 variance in IPAQ-SF scores after controlling for age ( $\Delta R^2_{Adjusted}=.081,$   
305  $p=.009$ ) while Model 2 as a whole explains 21.1% of the variance  
306 ( $R^2_{Adjusted}=.211, p=.009$ ). Both timeline cyclical (Beta = -.312,  $p=.005$ ) and  
307 age (Beta=-.451,  $p=.011$ ) made a statistically significant contribution to the  
308 variance reported. Overall, Model 2 significantly improved the predictability  
309 of IPAQ-SF scores compared to not fitting the model ( $F(2, 61)= 9.44,$   
310  $p<.001$ ).

311

312 [Table 5]

313

314 *Moderation and mediation analyses*

315 Moderation analysis was conducted with levels of physical activity (IPAQ-  
316 SF) as the dependent variable, timeline cyclical as the independent variable  
317 and severity of depression (BDI-II) as the moderator variable (Table 6).  
318 Findings suggest that the relationship between timeline cyclical and levels  
319 of physical activity is not moderated by severity of depression as the  
320 interaction effect is not significant ( $b = .023$ , 95% CI  $[-.015, .061]$ ,  $t = 1.201$ ,  
321  $p = .23$ ).

322

323 [Table 6]

324

325 Similarly, mediation analysis (Figure 1) was conducted with levels of  
326 physical activity (IPAQ-SF) as the dependent variable, timeline cyclical as  
327 the independent variable and severity of depression (BDI-II) as the mediator  
328 variable. Results indicated that severity of depression was not a mediator  
329 as there is no significant indirect effect of timeline cyclical on levels of  
330 physical activity through severity of depression ( $b = -.021$ , BCa CI  $[-.082,$   
331  $.008]$ ,  $p = .33$ ).

332

333 [Figure 1]

334

335 **Discussion**

336

337 The present study is the first to examine the relationship between illness  
338 representations and levels of physical activity in patients with CKD-ND.  
339 Findings of this study suggest that illness representation elements are  
340 associated with, and predictive of, levels of physical activity in accordance  
341 with the CSM model assumptions, in which perceptions of a condition such  
342 as CKD influence coping and the utilisation of health behaviours (Leventhal  
343 *et al.* 1984). Regarding the secondary aim, depression was not found to  
344 mediate or moderate the predictive relationship between timeline cyclical  
345 and levels of physical activity.

346

347 Almost three-quarter of the sample (74%) undertook insufficient levels of  
348 physical activity. This is expected as CKD has been found to be associated  
349 with impaired physical activity (Beddhu *et al.* 2009). Half of the sample had  
350 a BDI-II cut-off score of  $\geq 11$ , which is indicative of a depressive  
351 presentation. This rate is more than twice reported in a systematic review  
352 on the prevalence of depression in CKD (Palmer *et al.* 2013). The reason  
353 for this discrepancy is unclear. Our study sample comprised only patients  
354 with CKD-ND, thus excluding those receiving renal replacement therapy or  
355 had kidney transplants.

356

357 Regarding associative relationship, only personal control had a statistically  
358 significant positive correlation with levels of physical activity, suggesting that  
359 patients with CKD-ND who perceived themselves as having more control

360 over their illness were more likely to engage and undertake higher levels of  
361 physical activity. This is consistent with Hagger and Orbell (2003) meta-  
362 analysis examining the relationship between illness representations and  
363 health behaviours and illness outcomes. They found that CSM cure/control  
364 dimension, equivalent to personal control, was positively correlated with  
365 specific problem-focused coping strategies such as exercise (Hagger &  
366 Orbell 2003). Perception of personal control over illness was related to  
367 active coping strategies, which was reflected in our results. In the context of  
368 CKD, where the main goal of physical activity is to improve disease  
369 management as opposed to cure, it could define an important coping  
370 strategy. Similarly, the French *et al.* (2006) systematic review with meta-  
371 analysis reported patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) disclosing  
372 greater CSM cure/control appraisals were more likely to attend cardiac  
373 rehabilitation, indicating active coping through the engagement of health  
374 behaviour. The positive association between personal control and levels of  
375 physical activity has also been established in CVD research studies (Reges  
376 *et al.* 2013; Mosleh & Almalik 2016).

377

378 Timeline cyclical dimension predicted levels of physical activity and  
379 remained statistically significant for the post-hoc regression analysis.  
380 Patients with CKD-ND who considered their illness and symptoms as  
381 unpredictable and cyclical undertook lower levels of physical activity. This  
382 finding parallels Sniehotta *et al.* (2010) who similarly concluded that timeline  
383 cyclical predicted levels of physical activity in patients with CVD. It is  
384 possible that patients with CKD-ND who perceived their condition as cyclical



385 may adopt an avoidant coping style by not employing health behaviours for  
386 the fear of aggravating their symptoms (Sniehotta *et al.* 2010). Such  
387 explanation is congruent with Hagger and Orbell (2003) who found that the  
388 timeline dimension, which consists of both acute/chronic and cyclical  
389 components, were positively associated with avoidance and denial.

390

391 The predictive relationship between timeline cyclical and levels of physical  
392 activity were neither moderated nor mediated by the severity of depression.  
393 This is expected as severity of depression was not significantly associated  
394 with levels of physical activity. One possible explanation for the lack of  
395 significance was that missing data in the IPAQ-SF, substituted by  
396 suggested values through expectation maximisation technique, could have  
397 influenced the statistical significance. This appears confirmed by a post-hoc  
398 simple correlation analysis using the original IPAQ-SF data with no data  
399 imputation where results indicated a significant negative relationship  
400 between severity of depression and levels of physical activity.

401

#### 402 *Limitations*

403 There are several limitations in the current study. Whilst our findings have  
404 shown a relationship between illness representations and physical activity,  
405 only two of the seven domains of the CSM were statistically significant,  
406 indicating a limitation of the CSM as an explanatory model for physical  
407 activity behaviour. Results emerged from a within group cross-sectional  
408 survey design, which precluded causal examination and comparisons  
409 across groups. Additionally, the self-report measures (IPAQ-SF and BDI-II)

410 are prone to recall bias, which threatens the validity of the data (Raphael  
411 1987). We acknowledge the small sample size and made stringent attempts  
412 to address power: a post-hoc regression analysis with two predictor  
413 variables was conducted, which met the 15 cases per predictor variable  
414 requirement for social sciences research (Stevens 1996). Future studies  
415 could address the power issue by recruiting a larger sample and refining  
416 data collection method, such as using online survey systems. With  
417 participant characteristics of the sample indicating more males than the  
418 prevalence model (Roth *et al.* 2010), and the sample reporting more  
419 depression compared to other studies (Palmer *et al.* 2013), results are not  
420 entirely generalisable to the CKD population, and are restricted to patients  
421 with CKD-ND. Our study population also had a higher percentage of White  
422 British participants (80%) than the local CKD population (70%). These  
423 differences possibly could be due to the sampling method adopted, which  
424 results in selection bias (Acharya *et al.* 2013). Moreover, individuals who  
425 declined to take part in the study may differ from those who volunteered for  
426 the study, resulting in non-response bias (Sedgwick 2014).

427

#### 428 *Implications for clinical practice*

429 Our study results suggest a predictive relationship between timeline cyclical  
430 and levels of physical activity, which are neither moderated nor mediated  
431 by the severity of depression. This demonstrates that timeline cyclical is an  
432 important predictor and on its own has a direct effect on levels of physical  
433 activity. This is a key finding, with important clinical implications given the  
434 substantial evidence that patients with CKD undertake insufficient physical

435 activity (Zamojska *et al.* 2006; Beddhu *et al.* 2009; Avesani *et al.* 2012;  
436 Hayhurst & Ahmed 2015), with potential adverse consequences (Beddhu *et*  
437 *al.* 2009; Zelle *et al.* 2017). Furthermore, research has found that exercise  
438 is beneficial for patients with CKD (Heiwe 2011) and associated with better  
439 outcomes (Tentori *et al.* 2010), including non-dialysing patients (Gould *et*  
440 *al.* 2014).

441

442 Given that components of illness representations appeared to underpin and  
443 direct the motivation to engage in physical activity, better understanding and  
444 targeting of patient appraisals in this population appears warranted. Clinical  
445 resources could be invested for nurses to conduct routine psychological  
446 assessment and screening for patients with CKD-ND, to assess their illness  
447 representations. Development of psychological interventions specifically to  
448 address unhelpful representations could also be considered and delivered  
449 by trained nursing staff (Hale *et al.* 2007, Hudson *et al.* 2016). For instance,  
450 psychoeducation on CKD could be provided to increase patients'  
451 understanding and knowledge of the condition, which could potentially  
452 empower them and increase personal control. With enhanced knowledge,  
453 individuals could identify early warning signs of their symptoms, and work  
454 with health providers to better manage their condition to enhance stability  
455 and prevent deterioration. Enhanced awareness and active illness  
456 management could mitigate perceptions of illness unpredictability and  
457 improve perceived controllability. Research has established the efficacy of  
458 illness representations-based interventions in increasing physical activity in  
459 patients after myocardial infarction (Broadbent *et al.* 2009), and improving

460 clinical and psychological outcomes in diabetic patients (Keogh *et al.* 2011).  
461 Similarly, such focused interventions should be timely provided for patients  
462 with CKD-ND to enhance and sustain uptake of physical activity and  
463 potentially mitigate the effects of depression.  
464

465 **Conclusion**

466 The current study has established the relationship of illness representations  
467 with levels of physical activity. Future research concerning the development  
468 and validation of psychological interventions specific to the modification of  
469 illness representations in patients with CKD-ND is encouraged. In addition,  
470 robust design adopting randomised controlled method could examine  
471 efficacy of such treatments and establish causal links between illness  
472 representations and levels of physical activity.

473

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694 **Tables**

695

696 **Table 1: Sample characteristics**

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<b>Study sample (n=70)</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
Mean age (SD)	60.1 (15.9)
Median age (in years)	60
<b>Age range (%)</b>	
18-39 years	8 (11.4%)
40-59 years	26 (37.1%)
60 years and above	36 (51.4%)
<b>Gender (%)</b>	
Male	42 (60%)
Female	28 (40%)
<b>Ethnicity (n=67)</b>	
White British	56
Indian	7
White any other background	1
White and Black Carribean	1
White Asian	1
Pakistani	1
<b>Level of Education (n=68) (%)</b>	
Lower Secondary Qualification	17 (25%)
Upper Secondary Qualification	6 (8.8%)
University or College below a degree	16 (23.5%)
University or College degree	15 (22.1%)
None of these	14 (20.6%)
<b>Smoking Status (%)</b>	
Never smoked	37 (52.9%)
Current smoker	5 (7.1%)
Ex-smoker	28 (40%)
<b>Comorbidity Reported (n=66) (%)</b>	
Yes	50 (75.8%)
No	16 (24.2%)
<b>Stage of CKD (%)</b>	
Stage 1	2 (2.9%)

Stage 2	16 (22.9%)
Stage 3	14 (20%)
Stage 4	32 (45.7%)
Stage 5	6 (8.6)
<b>Onset of CKD (n=69)</b>	
Onset of CKD range (in months)	0.5 - 360
Mean onset of CKD in months (SD)	110.6 (100.6)
<b>eGFR (n=68) (ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	
eGFR range	8 - 90
Mean eGFR (SD)	34.5 (22.3)

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699



700 **Table 2: BDI-II results summary**

<b>Study sample (n=68)</b>	
<b><i>Depression severity category (%)</i></b>	
Minimal Depression	43 (63.2%)
Mild Depression	12 (17.6%)
Moderate Depression	8 (11.8%)
Severe Depression	5 (7.4%)
<b><i>BDI score</i></b>	
Mean BDI score (SD)	12.0 (9.6)
<b><i>BDI cut-off score criteria (%)</i></b>	
BDI score $\geq$ 11	34 (50%)

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702

**Table 3: Correlations for participant characteristics, levels of physical activity, illness representations and severity of depression**

	Participant Characteristics					IPQ-R			IPAQ-SF	BDI-II	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Age	-	-.277*	-.042	-.310*	-.096	-.132	-.134	.013	-.368**	-.291*	-.168
2. eGFR		-	.095	-.073	-.425**	.125	-.134	.087	-.035	.227	-.010
3. Timeline (Acute/Chronic)			-	.041	-.136	.113	.489**	-.268	-.067	.071	-.154
4. Timeline Cyclical				-	.403**	-.073	.178	-.245	.470**	-.242	.582**
5. Consequences					-	-.197	-.016	-.165	.430**	-.109	.463**
6. Personal Control						-	.475**	.435**	-.366**	.288*	-.354**
7. Treatment Control							-	.079	-.153	.125	-.071
8. Illness Coherence								-	-.544**	-.042	-.277*
9. Emotional Representations									-	-.003	.654**
10. IPAQ-SF										-	-.245
11. Overall BDI-II Score											-

Note: \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$  (2-tailed).

**Table 4: Multiple regression analysis for levels of physical activity (IPAQ-SF), with 95% BCa confidence intervals reported in parentheses. Confidence intervals and standard errors based on 1000 bootstrap samples**

Variable	Model 1				Model 2			
	<i>b</i>	<i>SE B</i>	$\beta$	<i>p</i> (2-tailed)	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	$\beta$	<i>p</i> (2-tailed)
<b>Age</b>	-0.016 (-.035, -.001)	.009	-.277	.081	-.021 (-.039, -.004)	.009	-.353	.041
<b>eGFR</b>	.541 (-.194, 1.323)	.360	.171	.138	.450 (-.399, 1.264)	.448	.143	.358
<b>Timeline Acute/Chronic</b>					-.052 (-.246, .137)	.114	-.057	.656
<b>Timeline Cyclical</b>					-.106 (-.181, -.029)	.036	-.423	.008
<b>Consequences</b>					.016 (-.044, .078)	.031	.101	.612
<b>Personal Control</b>					.067 (.005, .137)	.036	.343	.093
<b>Illness Coherence</b>					-.057 (-.118, .009)	.033	-.307	.106
<b>Emotional Representations</b>					-.002 (-.068, .060)	.035	-.011	.968

Note:  $R^2=.136$  and  $R^2_{Adjusted}=.103$  for Model 1;  $\Delta R^2=.219$  and  $\Delta R^2_{Adjusted}=.142$  for Model 2 ( $p < .05$ ).

**Table 5: Post-hoc regression analysis for levels of physical activity (IPAQ-SF), with 95% BCa confidence intervals reported in parentheses. Confidence intervals and standard errors based on 1000 bootstrap samples**

	<i>b</i>	<i>SE B</i>	$\beta$	<i>p</i> (2-tailed)
<b>Model 1</b>				
<i>Age</i>	-0.023 (-.039, -.009)	.008	-.380	.017
<b>Model 2</b>				
<i>Age</i>	-0.028 (-.046, -.012)	.008	-.451	.011
<i>Timeline Cyclical</i>	-.085 (-.139, -.031)	.027	-.312	.005

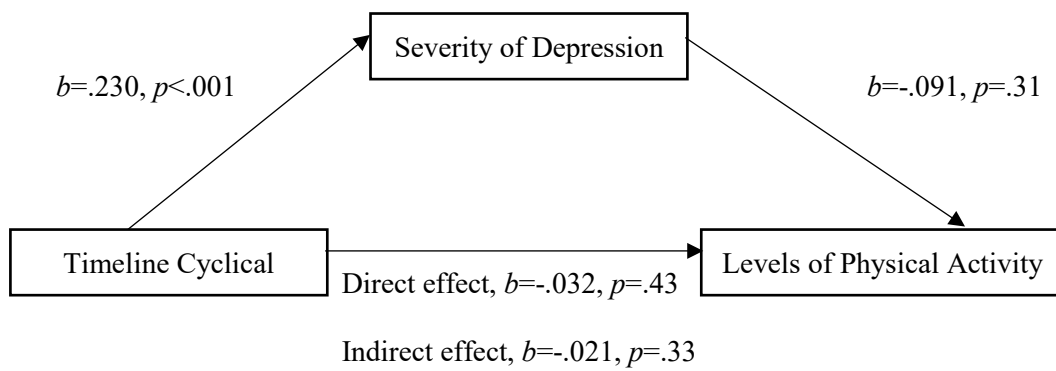
Note:  $R^2=.144$  and  $R^2_{Adjusted}=.130$  for Model 1;  $\Delta R^2=.092$  and  $\Delta R^2_{Adjusted}=.081$  for Model 2 ( $ps<.01$ ).

**Table 6: Moderation analysis for levels of physical activity (IPAQ-SF)**

	<i>b</i>	<i>SE B</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
<i>BDI-II</i>	-0.095 (-.260, .070)	.0825	-1.153	.254
<i>Timeline Cyclical</i>	-.029 (-.093, .036)	.032	-.888	.378
<i>BDI-II x Timeline Cyclical</i>	.023 (-.015, .061)	.0191	1.201	.23

Note:  $R^2=.078$  ( $p=0.56$ ).

**Figure**



**Figure 1. Mediation analysis for levels of physical activity (IPAQ-SF). Severity of depression did not act as a mediator as the indirect effect was statistically insignificant.**