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An application of structural equation modeling of test dispositional optimism as mediator or moderator in quality of life in patients with chronic disease

- Estela Vilhena,
- José Luís Pais Ribeiro,
- Isabel Silva,
- <u>Luísa Pedro</u>,
- <u>Rute Meneses</u>,
- Helena Cardoso,
- António Martins da Silva,
- Denisa Mendonça

Abstract

The aim of the present study was to test a hypothetical model to examine if dispositional optimism exerts a moderating or a mediating effect between personality traits and quality of life, in Portuguese patients with chronic diseases. A sample of 540 patients was recruited from central hospitals in various districts of Portugal. All patients completed self-reported questionnaires assessing socio-demographic and clinical variables, personality, dispositional optimism, and quality of life. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to analyze the moderating and mediating effects. Results suggest that dispositional optimism exerts a mediator rather than a moderator role between personality traits and quality of life, suggesting that "the expectation that good things will happen" contributes to a better general well-being and better mental functioning.



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Authors:

Estela Vilhena evilhena@ipca.pt (1)

José Luís Pais Ribeiro jlpr@fpce.up.pt (2)

Isabel Silva isabels@ufp.pt (3)

Luísa Pedro luisa.pedro@estesl.ipl.pt (4)

Rute Meneses rmeneses@ufp.edu.pt (3)

Helena Cardoso helenacardoso@icbas.up.pt (5)

António Martins da Silva ams@icbas.up.pt (5)

Denisa Mendonça dvmendon@icbas.up.pt (5)

Author Affiliations:

- 1. Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave and ICBAS University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
- 2. FPCE University of Porto and UIPES, Porto, Portugal
- 3. U.Fernando Pessoa of Porto, Porto, Portugal
- 4. IPL of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
- 5. ICBAS University of Porto and HGSA Hospital Center of Porto, Porto, Portugal