Background

- Whether diagnosed with cancer or spinal cord injury, the person's total being is affected physically, psychologically, socially and spiritually.
- Problem Statement: As paraplegics are living longer (well into their 70's), dealing with the issues of aging, depression, and medical complications, subjective quality of life and spiritual well being can be adversely affected.
- Improved health outcomes and QOL following illness can occur if spiritual and psychological needs are addressed (Brillhard, 2005; Grimsley, 2006; Mathesis, Tulsky & Mathesis, 2006).

Aims of Study

To examine the relationship between:
- Existential spiritual well-being & QOL
- Religious spiritual well-being & QOL
- Occurrence of depression & QOL
- Age, gender, ethnicity & QOL
- Years since onset of injury & QOL
- Quality of life of persons living with paraplegia one year or longer.

Framework

Descriptives

- Male: 82.7%
- Age: 18-78 (Mean = 40.65)
- Ethnicity: Hispanic (56%) and Black (29%)
- Etiology: Gunshot wound (69.3%)
- Months/Years post injury (1-38 years; mean = 16)
- Employed 14.7%, Married 21.3%
- Religion: 84.7% of Christian Denomination; 60.6% practiced their faith

Design/Method

- Descriptive, correlational, cross-sectional design
- Demographic questionnaire
- Standardized Instruments:
  - The Spiritual well-being scale (SWBS; Ellison & Palouzian, 1982)
  - The Center of Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (Radloff, 1977)
  - Quality of Life Scale (Kemp & Kahan, 1955)
- Analysis done through SPSS, Version 16, statistical software

Ferrell and Grant QQL Model

Results

- Connection to SCI:
  - Physical: pain, constipation, decreased functional ability, strength, sleep and rest
  - Psychological: Depression, anxiety, fear
  - Social: Caregiver and financial burdens, sexual function, relationships and roles affected
  - Spiritual: Finding meaning in life, God, enduring suffering and searching for hope

Discussion of Findings

- Having both: meaning/purpose in Life + a strong faith in God = high SWB Total = high subjective QOL. (Second predictor of QOL)
- Ferrell & Grant's (2000) QOL Model supports the interrelatedness between SWB = QOL: SWB leads to coping with losses and finding meaning of life.
- Gender, age and length of injury were not significantly correlated to a person's QOL.