

The HOPE Spiritual Assessment: Uses, Preliminary Findings, and Analysis



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Background

- Spiritual assessment and spiritual history (SA/SH) are essential for providing patient-centered spiritual care (SC).
- The HOPE spiritual assessment (HOPE) is one of the three most commonly discussed SA/SHs in the medical literature, yet no studies have broadly explored its uses.
- This study aims to describe the scope, uses, strengths and weaknesses of HOPE since its original 2001 publication.
- HOPE questionnaire: H = sources of hope, meaning, comfort, or peace; O = organized religion; P = personal spirituality and practices; E = effects on medical care and end-of-life care

Objectives

- Broadly explore the various uses of the HOPE tool and the ways in which it has been used or incorporated into other studies related to spirituality.

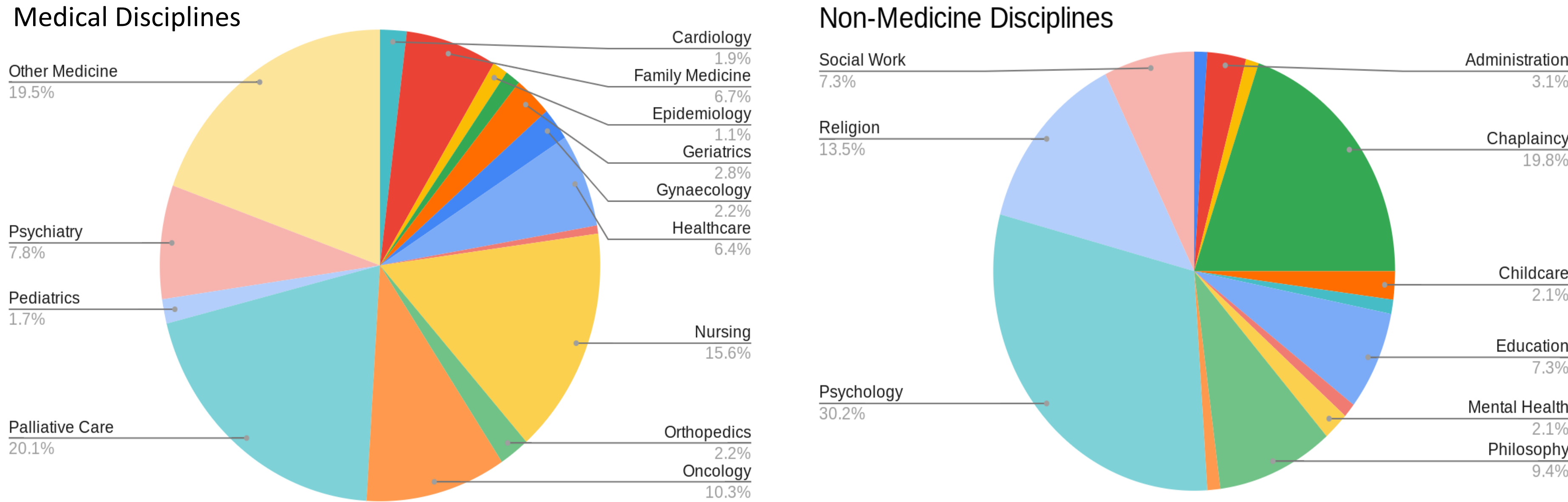
Methods

- *Design:* Systematic literature search and detailed citation analysis
- *Setting:* The literature search included PubMed, Web-of-Science, Google Scholar, PsycInfo, Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, Atla Religion Database, with AtlaSerials and SocIndex, for sources citing HOPE. This yielded 1073 unique documents.
- *Data Collection/Instruments:* Data is being extracted from the full-text of all 1073 sources using a standardized questionnaire.
- *Analysis:* Five researchers are performing statistical analysis on quantitative data and thematic analysis on qualitative data.

Preliminary Results

Of 1073 unique citations,
531 (49%) have been analyzed to date, from 50 different countries and in 9 languages
Uses include: clinical, educational, and research

Disciplines Citing the HOPE Questions



- Of the articles analyzed to date:
- 62% explicitly mention HOPE questions in the text
 - 44% discuss multiple SA/SH tools
 - 11% only discuss the HOPE SA/SH Tool
 - 50 Studies have incorporated the HOPE Tool
 - Most articles are from USA; second most common is Brazil

Qualitative Results (extracted form article texts)

Common Strengths of SA/SH Tools	Common Weaknesses of SA/SH Tools	Particular Strengths of the HOPE Tool
Organized	Few outcome studies	Acceptability for patients with diverse beliefs (religious and secular)
Accessible	Psychometric testing minimal	
Memorable		

Conclusions

Preliminary analysis suggests that:

- The HOPE spiritual assessment tool is widely used in a variety of settings.
- It is indeed one of the 2-3 most commonly used SA/SH tools worldwide.
- Particular strengths of HOPE compared to other tools seem to be its acceptability to people with diverse beliefs.
- Further study is needed.

Next Steps

- Complete the data extraction and analysis for all 1073 papers to gain a complete understanding of the literature.
- Utilize this review to attain a potential list of key informants for a more in-depth assessment of the HOPE questions, utilizing both a survey and a qualitative individual interview study.

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