chapter **119**

Benefit of pleasurable physical activity for the elderly: An integrative review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: With the increase of elderly people it is necessary to include in the routine the practice of some physical activity, in addition to promoting well-being helps to reduce chronic diseases pro providing a healthier aging and depending less on health services of the country. Objective: The present study aims to present an integrative review study, searching the national and international literature on the benefits of practicing physical activities that generate pleasure for the health of the elderly. Methodology: It was used as a research method, the strategy known as PICO. Results: The main results found presented, study sample was composed of 16 articles, being three studies in 2018, four of 2019, two of 2020 and seven of 2021, carried out in China, United States, Brazil, Korea, Spain, Japan, France and Denmark. Most of the articles (13) were based on observational studies, while three were descriptive with a quantitative approach. The research participants were elderly people who practiced physical activity regularly.

Keywords: Elderly, Leisure activities, Health and Aging.

1 INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nations (UN), worldwide, the population aged 60 and over has been growing gradually, about 3% per year. In 2017 it was estimated that worldwide, 962 million people were aged 60 or over – representing 13% of the global population (UN, 2019).

The IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), in its research, shows that in 2021, the Brazilian population presented about 212.7 million, an increase of 7.6% compared to 2012. In this period, the share of people aged 60 and over jumped from 11.3% to 14.7% of the population. In absolute numbers, this age group went from 22.3 million to 31.2 million, growing 39.8% in the period (IBGE, 2022).

It is common to find hundreds of people walking in public places, among them many elderly people. Physical activity is considered very important for all ages, older people are discovering its benefits and increasingly have sought to exercise (REIS, ANDRADE, 2022).

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In an effort to delay or minimize some aspects of aging, the scientific community has considered the practice of physical exercise essential. Although aging is associated with several changes in the cardiovascular system, physical exercise can bring important benefits to this population. Regular and controlled practice is of paramount importance to promote health in the aging process, since it acts by strengthening the muscles, maintaining bone density, controlling blood pressure and blood glucose levels. They even help to control the chronic diseases that are so common in this phase (RIOS, SANTOS, REZENDE, 2022).

It has long been realized that the practice of regular physical activities promotes many benefits to the health of the elderly. Because of this, it is important that programs aimed at an active lifestyle are implemented during the old age of citizens. Programs that have trained professionals able to train the population of elderly people to constantly keep themselves in activities. It is also necessary to evaluate the results. Elderly people present results such as mental improvements, physical fitness, blood pressure and quality of life (ALMEIDA et al, 2019).

The positive effects of physical exercise are undeniable, perceived in the medium and long term in elderly people who practice them regularly. The preservation and maintenance of functional capacity is included as one of the great benefits. Added to this is the increase in the levels of strength and flexibility, elevation of self-esteem, low occurrence of depressive symptoms, improvement of the nervous system, muscle structures and functions, among others. It is important to emphasize that despite all the evidence, there is still a low frequency of people who maintain the routine of physical exercises and meet the recommendations required for the practice of physical activities (PEREIRA et al, 2019).

This scenario is extremely worrisome for developing countries because they present precarious health systems. In Brazil, it is possible to notice changes in public health programs and policies aimed at the population, despite the difficulties that the country currently faces. For this, taking care of the being that enters the aging process encompasses not only sociodemographic issues, but all that deal singularly with it, such as family, beliefs, autonomy, psychological and spiritual situations and physical capacity (CAMBOIM et al, 2017).

Thus, it was possible to search the literature for the benefits that physical activity provides for the elderly. In this context, the following question arises: "What are the benefits of practicing activities that generate pleasure for the health of the elderly?".

This study aimed to identify, in national and international productions, the evidence about the benefits of practicing physical activities that generate pleasure for the health of the elderly.

2 METHODOLOGY

The present study is an integrative review, which according to SOUZA, SILVA, CARVALHO (2010) is a method that provides the synthesis of knowledge and the incorporation of the applicability of results of significant studies in practice.

The integrative review (IR) is divided into 5 steps to start preparing the work being: 1st Define what research problem you want to solve; 2nd Search in Literature; 3° Evaluating the data found; 4th Data analysis; 5th Presentation of results (LANDO, 2020).

For the first stage we used the PICO strategy (patient, intervention, comparison, outcomes) (acronym for P: population/patients; I: intervention; C: comparison/control; O: outcome) is used to assist what the research question should actually specify. (SANTOS, GALVÃO, 2014).

This strategy was used as follows: P: elderly person; I: physical activities; C: Not applicable; O: the benefits that the practice of physical activity provides for the elderly.

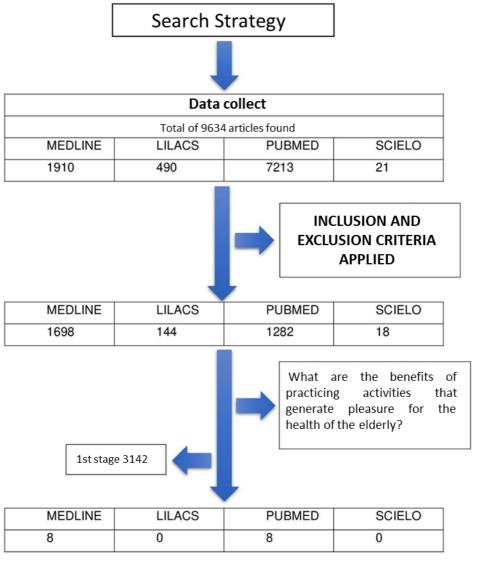
The search for the studies took place from March to May 2022 and featured the following health science descriptors (DeCs): Aging OR ederly (elderly) AND health AND leisure activities.

As bases de dados utilizadas foram: bases de dados National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health (PubMed), Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Medical Literature Analysis and Retrievel System Online (Medline).

In the third stage we established the criteria for sample selection, being the publications of the last 5 years (2017-2022); in languages Portuguese, English and Spanish; Original articles available in full text available online. The exclusion criteria were: Articles selected in another database and that do not answer the research question, dissertations and editorials.

The articles were pre-selected from the reading of the titles and abstracts and the final sample was reached based on the reading of the articles in full, according to the flowchart presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Sample selection of publications on the benefits of practicing activities that generate pleasure for the health of the elderly. Bandeirantes, PR, Brazil- 2022.



SOURCE: Own Elaboration

2nd stage 16

The data analysis was performed by 2 investigators blindly and independently, in order to avoid selection biases, the researchers reached an impasse where they had to invite a third investigator to analyze the articles that generated disagreement.

For the analysis of the studies, an instrument was constructed containing data on: Author/Title/Year/Country, type of research, objectives, main results and conclusions.

3 FINDINGS

AUTHORS/TITLE/ **COUNTRY**/ **KIND** RESEARCH GOALS MAIN RESULTS YEAR/ There was an unequal distribution of occupational physical activity among the levels of leisure-time physical activity. The prevalence of HOLTERMANN, current smokers. Andreas: BMI \geq 30 kg/m2, SCHNOHR, Peter; To investigate the low schooling, low MAROTT, risk of major Higher leisure-time family income, low adverse physical activity is Jacob Louis. The adherence to dietary cardiovascular associated with reduced physical activity guidelines, COPD risk of MACE and allparadox in events and death GOLD stage 4 and cardiovascular from all causes in cause mortality, while Cross-sectional diabetes was higher greater occupational disease and all-cause relation to study and cohort. among the group mortality: the occupational physical activity is with low leisurecontemporary physical activity associated with time physical Copenhagen General and leisure-time increased risks activity. Thus, the Population Study physical activity in independently of each group with low with the great other. leisure-time physical 104 046 adults. contemporary. activity presented a higher score of vital Denmark. 2021. exhaustion, heart rate at rest, LDL cholesterol and triglycerides compared to the very high leisure physical activity group. The RW is the main Our results showed form of participation of that RW is the main the elderly in the PAR. way that the elderly The lower residential YU. Jiabin: YANG. practice PAR, and density, higher aesthetic Chen; V. Jianshe. The aim of this only a small part of environment, and higher The Associations of study was to the elderly would street connectivity **Built Environment** investigate the choose to participate would motivate seniors with Older People associations of the in physical activities to engage in more RW Recreational Cross-sectional built environment of moderate to and RPA in Yiwu City. Walking and research. with recreational vigorous intensity. Good access to the Physical Activity in a walking (RW) and All the results service would encourage Chinese Small-Scale recreational suggest that the RW the elderly to participate City of Yiwu. physical activity is the first and most more in RT. In addition, (RPA). favorable choice older adults with higher China. 2021. when the elderly educational attainment practice outdoor and lower income are physical activities in more likely to engage in their leisure time. RW and PAR. PITILIN, Erica De Among the elderly Considering that the To identify factors Brito et al. Factors interviewed, 63.9% practice of leisure associated with Cross-sectional associated with were female and activities promotes leisure activities of leisure activities of study. 36.1% were male, better living and health elderly people elderly residents In with a mean age of conditions, we reinforce living in rural areas. fashion rural Areas. 68.3 years (± 5.8 the need to implement

 Table 1- Summary of published articles on the benefits of practicing activities that generate pleasure for the health of the elderly. Bandeirantes, PR, Brazil- 2022.

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Brazil. 2020.			years). The Participation in leisure activities was high (79.8%) and the factors associated with its practice were: marital status, gender and schooling.	actions and instruments that provide individual and collective leisure in rural areas.
SCARABOTTOLO, Catarina Covolo et al. Relationship of different domains of physical activity practice with health- related quality of life among community- dwelling older people: a cross- sectional study. Brasi. 2019.	Cross-sectional study.	To analyze the association between different domains of physical activity (PA) and health- related domains of quality of life.	The male elderly had higher PA scores in sports, leisure and total PA than the female adults. More physically active elderly in the work/occupation domain were associated with better functional capacity scores and general health perception	Physically active elderly in the different PA domains presented better HRQoL parameters, reinforcing the importance of studies that analyze PA in different contexts and in countries of low and medium socioeconomic status
MORGAN, Gemma S. et al. A life fulfilled: positively influencing physical activity in older adults – a systematic review and meta- ethnography. China. 2019.	Systematic review and meta- ethnography.	To describe how the influence of physical activity affects the daily life of elderly people in their daily lives.	The emerging theory suggested that the transition to old age may challenge people's sense of identity and their role in life. Physical activity can help you recover feelings of purpose, of being needed in group collective activities and create usual routine and structure for the day.	The insights from this study suggest that we need to reframe our approach to consider the broader set of goals and aspirations that are of greater personal importance to adults older, and future interventions should be focus on how physical activity can contribute to life satisfaction, sense of purpose, and sense of role accomplishment in old age.
MENG from Yanting et al. The effects of leisure time physical activity on depression among older women depend on intensity and frequency. China. 2021.	Cross-sectional study and cohort	To estimate parameters in physical activity such as intensity, duration and frequency and to evaluate whether the elderly people improved mental aspects, quality of life and well-being.	The adjusted relationship between duration and depression was not observed. The results were supported by sensitivity analysis based on the substitution of lost values.	Moderate LTPA, associated with mental health benefits, should be recommended for older women rather than vigorous LPA.
LIANG, Chyi ; WU, Pei-ling; HO, Chien- chang . Association of Regular Leisure- Time Physical Activity with Happiness among Middle-Aged and Older Adults in Taiwan.	Cross-sectional study	Compare if the physical activity of laser, practiced regularly brings some benefits to older people as increased happiness and well-being.	The results suggest a significant positive relationship between regular laser physical activity and happiness scores; that is, the middle- aged adults who practice the most	Regular laser physical activity is an essential factor that influences happiness. LTPA is an essential form of physical activity that helps people relax. Therefore, physical activity of

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China. 2021.			Laser Physical Activity May Report Higher occurrence of happiness than others. Laser physical activity is an essential form of physical activity that helps middle-aged and elderly people relax.	Regular laser is crucial for middle-aged people and the elderly, who should be encouraged to increase the duration and intensity of their laser physical activity.
DUPRÉ, Caroline Et Al. Associations between physical activity types and multi-domain cognitive decline in older adults from the Three-city cohort. France. 2021.	Cohort study	To evaluate the association of two types of physical activity with decline in different cognitive domains.	These results remained stable after adjustment for possible confounding factors. Our study shows the importance of considering the type of PA through a specific questionnaire that also includes domestic activities. Continuing to participate in household activities and using adapted transportation can allow seniors to better maintain their cognitive abilities.	The study noted a decline in cognitive functions, particularly executive functions, and verbal fluency, over an 8-year follow-up period, in people ≥72 years of age who performed moderate to high household/transportation activities. On the other hand, we did not detect an association with leisure activities and sports
DUGAN, Sheila A.; GABRIEL Kelley Pettee; GUTIERREZ Carrie Karvonen. Physical activity and physical function: moving and aging. United States. 2018.	Study transverse and cohort	Assessing the impact of ageing reproductive in health outcomes of women during middle age.	With physical activity there is an improvement in Performance of the elderly during their activities of everyday life, bringing well-being.	What the process of physical disability begins earlier than thought, with many limitations starting in middle age and not in old age, when women still have many years to live. Understanding that restrictions on physical functioning begin in middle age for women is a strong argument for changing someone's behavior to include regular physical activity.
ZHANG, Chi Zhang; QING, Niu ; ZHANG, Sifeng . The Impact of Leisure Activities on the Mental Health of Older Adults: The Mediating Effect of Social Support and Perceived Stress. China. 2021.	Cross-sectional study	Assess the impact of leisure activities on the mental health of the elderly and see if they really had changes in behavior.	The results suggested that leisure activities indirectly affect the mental health of the elderly through perceived stress.	Leisure activities have significant effects on social support, perceived stress, and mental well-being of older adults. The leisure activities and mental health of the elderly, and the results show that social support and perceived stress totally mediate the relationship

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					between leisure
					activities and the mental
-				With the research in	health of the elderly
				the literature, a total	Both the physical
				of 23 MRI studies	intervention and the
				on Physical activity	observed increase in
	HAEGER, Alexa;		D 1	and cognitive	baseline fitness status
	COSTA, Ana S.;		Provides an overview of studies	decline met the	may mediate structural
	REETZ, Kathrin.		that Examine the	inclusion criteria. It	and functional changes in the brain, with a
	Cerebral changes		Changes brain	represents oxygen	primary focus on
	improved by		detectable by	consumption during	regions sensitive to
	physical activity	Systematic review	magnetic resonance	peak exercise (such	neurodegeneration
	during cognitive decline: A systematic	-	imaging after	as on a treadmill) and was used in	during cognitive
	review on MRI		intervention with	seven of the studies	decline. We found no
	studies.		physical exercises	on cognitive	association between
	studies.		of individuals with	impairment. In one	total intervention
	Alemanha. 2019.		DLB.	study, fitness was	duration rate, session
				assessed using a	duration, session frequency, and number
				triaxial	of brain regions affected
				accelerometer for 2	on structural MRI.
-				weeks.	
				They suggest that active involvement	The impact of engaging leisure activities on
				in leisure activities	measures of successful
	SALA, Giovanni et		Approach elderly	can help older adults	aging, including
	al. The impact of		people who practice	maintain cognitive,	cognitive function,
	leisure activities on older adults'		physical activities	physical and mental	physical function, and
	cognitive function,	Cohort Study	regularly and	health. Future	mental health in a
	physical function,	Conort Study	monitor health	research will shed	sample of Japanese
	and mental health.		aspects such as	light on whether	older adults.
			cognition and well- being.	there is a causal relationship between	Involvement with AL seems to be positively
	Japão. 2019.		being.	engaging in leisure	related to all three of
				activities and	these constructs in men
				successful aging.	and women
Ī	ROESCH, Janina			Of the 280	
	Krell; STINK			participants (165	
	Nathanael T.;			men) with MCI At	Physical activity may be
	GEDA, Yonas			the start of the	associated with a risk
	,		Assess whether to	study, 92 developed incident dementia at	reduced dementia
	And. Leisure-Time		decrease dementia	follow-up. At	among individuals with DLB. In addition, the
	Physical Activity and	Cohort study	with the practice of	baseline, the mean	intensity and timing of
	the Risk of Incident		physical activity.	age of the cohort	physical activity may be
	Dementia: The Mayo Clinic Study of			was 81 years (IQR:	important factors in the
	Aging.			76, 85) and the	investigation of this
	nging.			average level of	association.
	United States. 2018.			education was 12	
ŀ	YU, Jiabin; YANG,			years. The results showed	
	Chen ; LI, Jianshe.			that the diversity of	The laser physical
	The Effect of the			the land use mixture	activity of the elderly
	Built Environment		Investigate the	was associated with	was affected by various
	on Older Men's and	Cross-sectional	association among	leisure-time physical	elements of the built environment in different
	Women's Leisure-	study and cohort	leisure-time	activity in the	sex groups, and the LPA
	Time Physical	study and conort	physical activity of	elderly for both	level of the older
	Activity in the Mid-		the elderly.	sexes. In men,	women was more
	Scale City of Jinhua, China.			leisure-time physical	sensitive to the built
	China.			activity was also associated with	environment.
L			1	associated with	

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				Γ
China. 2021.			access to services.	
			However, in	
			women, leisure-time	
			physical activity	
			was associated with	
			residential density,	
			street connectivity,	
			and crime safety.	
			Indicate that the	
			activities performed	
			in the classes	
			Organized physical	
			activity (mainly	
			maintenance	
			gymnastics) are	
			useful to improve	
			the physical	
			condition of the	
			elderly and reduce	
CABELLO, Alba		Assess the impact	the risk of having	The practice of
Gomez Et al.		of physical activity	very low levels of it.	organized physical
Organized physical		organized and the	Knowing, in	activity produces a
activity in the		number of hours of	addition, the strong	beneficial effect on the
elderly, a tool to	Study transverse	practice at the level	association between	frequency of practice of
improve physical		of frequency of	physical condition	the elderly regardless of
condition in old age.		practice of the	and other health	age, the hours they
		elderly.	parameters, public	spend sitting or the time
Spain. 2018.		clucity.		they spend walking.
			organizations should	
			promote the practice	
			of this type of	
			activity in the	
			elderly population,	
			in order to improve	
			their health, reduce	
			their dependence	
			and ultimately	
			improve their	
			quality of life.	
		To evaluate the size		They clearly indicate
WON, Doyeon;		of the overall effect		that regular physical
BAE, Jung-sup ;		of the participation		activity has
SEO, Kwang-bong .		of the elderly in	It showed a small	psychological benefits
Enhancing		physical activities in	but significant	for the health of the
Subjective Well-		Several Variables	positive effect of	elderly. In particular,
Being through		dependents	physical activity	physical activity in the
Physical Activity for	Systematic review	including	1000	elderly brings a higher
		satisfaction with	across the subjective	
the Elderly in Korea:		life, successful	range of well-being	level of subjective well-
A Meta- Analysis		aging, leisure and	among the Korean	being in terms of self-
Approach.		exercise	elderly population.	efficacy, which is an
Q : 2010		satisfaction, self-		important element of
Coreia. 2019.		efficacy and		sustainable participation
		happiness		in physical activity.
1		in Princip		

4 DISCUSSION

The study sample consisted of 16 articles, three studies in 2018, four in 2019, two in 2020 and seven in 2021, conducted in China, the United States, Brazil, Korea, Spain, Japan, France and Denmark.

Most of the articles (13) were based on observational studies, while three were descriptive with a quantitative approach. The research participants were elderly people who practiced physical activity regularly.

Physical activity is an effective way to prevent cardiovascular disease and reduce all-cause mortality, according to Piercy et al. (2018). In 16 articles reviewed, there was a constancy in the results that showed that elderly people who practiced physical activity daily, had a better quality of life and well-being than those who did not do any type of exercise.

It is important to mention that regular physical activity can improve health by combating the decline in physical performance that occurs with aging. Over time, older people tend to decrease the frequency of physical exercise and adopt habits harmful to their emotional and physical health, which hinders their daily lives, affecting their ability to walk, cognitive performance, self-care and increasing their dependence (DUGAN, 2018)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020), the regular practice of physical activity is a preventive measure for the maintenance of mental and cognitive health, as it has a modest effect on the protection of cognition. This conclusion was based on low- to medium-quality evidence and suggests that aerobic exercise may be responsible for the positive effect on cognition.

With aging, it is common for elderly people to have difficulties to perform daily activities and need to depend more on the help of family members, however, including in the routine practices of pleasurable and viable physical activities can contribute to these people being more independent and have a better quality of life. The practice of physical exercises has several benefits, among them, the increase of muscle strength and flexibility, in addition to improving balance and coordination, which can help in performing everyday tasks in a safer and autonomous way.

The importance of physical activity in a person's life cannot be underestimated, especially for the elderly population. With aging, health and well-being are challenged by a number of factors, including physical and emotional changes. However, one thing is clear: engaging in physical activity regularly can have a significant impact on health and quality of life. According to Yu; Yang; Li (2021), the benefits of physical activity include risk reductions of coronary heart disease, cancers, type 2 diabetes in physical health and also improvements in depression, cognitive impairment and social isolation in mental health.

The analyzed articles point out that the involvement in physical activities regularly can improve the quality of life of the elderly. Among the benefits are reduced risk of cardiovascular and mental diseases, improved socialization with younger individuals, prevention of cognitive decline, and decreased mental disorders, resulting in an increase in the well-being and overall health of the elderly population. The Organic Health Law is one of the main norms that establishes guidelines to ensure the health of the Brazilian population, highlighting the importance of access to essential goods and services and leisure. According to the Organic Health Law (Diário Oficial da União, 1990), access to leisure is considered one of the determinants that influence the health levels of the elderly population.

It is therefore important to include physical activity as a form of leisure for the elderly population in order to improve their health, prevent social isolation and promote active participation in the community. In addition, the practice of physical activity can help in the maintenance of well-being and physical functioning, contributing to the quality of life of the elderly, as emphasized by the author below.

According to SCARBOLOTO et al (2029), the elderly who is constantly involved in physical activities practiced in a group, develops a better functional capacity he has or not comorbidities. Thus promoting better health-related quality of life during the aging process and generating well-being during the day and performing household tasks with more satisfaction and spirit.

Leisure activities were almost twice as likely to occur among women when compared to men, a result that does not differ when changing the area of study (PITILIN et al, 2020). It is noted that the vast majority of people who participate in physical activities are elderly females, as they always seek to maintain health and worry more than men. There is still a great taboo among males, who are not interested in developing healthy habits, thus being the individuals who get sick the most in the world.

Physical activity can help regain feelings of purpose, of being needed in collective group activities, and create habitual routine and structure for the day. By overcoming real and perceived barriers and by initiating or maintaining physical activities, older adults can further increase self-esteem, which contributes to a rewarding old age (MORGAN et al, 2019).

It is common for individuals in old age to experience a sense of worthlessness before society, which can lead to a behavior of social isolation and carelessness in relation to personal care. This trend can increase the risk of deteriorating health and decrease interaction with the outside world.

The research of MENG et al (2021) points out that satisfaction with physical activity depends on several factors, such as age, intensity and frequency of practice. The study shows that exercising regularly is more motivating than increasing exercise intensity. When older people make a habit of regularly engaging in activities that give them pleasure and well-being, they become more confident and lower their risks of developing diseases that need medical and drug treatment. The results point to a positive relationship between regular physical activity and happiness. This means that people who engage in more physical activity may be more likely to feel happy than others (LIANG, WU, HO, 2021). The practice of physical activity is fundamental to relieve the stress of everyday life and promote the happiness of the people who practice it. In addition, it prepares people to face the challenges of the next day, providing more energy and confidence to carry out their tasks.

Regular physical activity has a positive impact on the lives of older people, affecting both physical and mental aspects. With a more active life, older people tend to socialize more, reducing the risk of mental disorders such as depression, and improving their health by avoiding comorbidities such as systemic arterial hypertension and diabetes mellitus. In addition, the practice of physical activity provides well-being in the day to day. It is an option of low financial cost, because it can be practiced anywhere, reducing health expenses and reducing queues in health services.

Despite the positive results, it is important to continue to conduct research and studies to improve the understanding of how the practice of physical activity can improve the lives of older people, with the aim of motivating them to choose a more active life and create habits that improve their quality of life.

5 CONCLUSION

The development of this study allowed an analysis on how physical activity in the daily life of the elderly person influences their daily life, brings benefits to health and emotional. In addition, it also allowed a search in the literature to obtain consistent data on the activities and exercises developed in the routine.

When searching the literature, several studies were found that seek to improve the quality of life and well-being, always looking for ways to facilitate the understanding of the practice of physical activity regularly, making people more aware and active. The studies evaluated showed that, with the practice of physical activity, elderly people tend to have a better health picture, depending less on health services and having more disposition and independence. The practice of physical exercises is an important ally against chronic diseases and mental disorders, in addition to promoting well-being and self-esteem.

Nursing has a very important role in this context, as it contributes to the care and guidance that is passed on to this population, since it is always present in the main health services and can follow the routine and development during the activities. For the health area, this work is extremely important, because it brings to the readers that the regular practice of physical exercises is beneficial to health, in addition to promoting personal well-being and helping the elderly to strengthen themselves, avoiding falls and creating healthier lifestyle habits. As a suggestion for future studies, it is important to emphasize always seek to improve the methods of approach and research with the elderly and monitor their aging process, always seeking in order to offer quality health and well-being to our elderly.

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