Quality of life (QOL) in elderly patients who suffer from chronic diseases is significantly impacted. It is important to identify factors affecting QOL of elderly with chronic diseases. Unfortunately, current studies have been done only on those with specific diseases. This study identifies the critical QOL determinants such as potential disability in elderly patients suffering from chronic diseases.

### Purpose

This study identifies the critical QOL determinants such as potential disability in elderly patients suffering from chronic diseases.

### Results

The mean QOL for this sample was 58.3 (total score 80) meaning a medium level of QOL among elderly with chronic disease. Results of stepwise multiple regression analysis showed overall regression model explained 49% of the variance of QOL. Alzheimer disease-8 (AD-8) had the strongest association with total QOL score which can explain 27% of the variance. After controlling elders’ socio-demographic factors and their health status, potential disabilities of social isolation and depression were negatively correlated to QOL.

### Methods

A cross-sectional, correlational design was used. The structured questionnaires including socio-demographic, health status, and potential disability was self-developed. Purposive sample of 115 elderly patients diagnosed with at least one chronic diseases were recruited from out-patient center of a medical center in southern Taiwan.

### Conclusions

Understanding importance of determining factors on QOL, such as AD-8 (cognitive impairment), potential social isolation and depression, family income and IADL, among elderly with chronic diseases is critical for geriatric health care providers. Awareness of these factors can help the providers indentify individuals at risk and hopefully guide new intervention programs to improve the care for these invaluable members of our communities.