

Impact of Social Network Characteristics on Cardiometabolic Health

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It is well known that social characteristics influence the health of individuals, and conversely, health affects the social activities of individuals. Social network analysis technique, one of the methods to study social characteristics of individuals, is receiving increasing attention. The social network analysis is a method of studying the social structure of individuals and groups using network and graph theories. The social network analysis characterizes network structures in terms of nodes: individual actors, people, or things within the network, ties, edges, or links: relationships or interactions that connect the nodes. The social network analysis method allows us to visualize and quantify the characteristics of a particular network. It also quantifies various social characteristics of individual nodes within the network. Therefore, social network analysis has been used not only for identifying disease transmission pattern, but also for investigating the interaction between social characteristics and health. This approach can improve our understanding of social determinants of health and provides insights on how to change social characteristics for disease prevention and health. Recently, a few community-based cohort studies in Korea have adopted social network analysis to evaluate the relationship between social network characteristics and physical health. My presentation will include selected results on the relationship between social network characteristics and cardiometabolic health from the Korean Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (KSHAP), the Korean Urban Rural Elderly (KURE) study, and the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases Etiology Research Center (CMERC) study.