

• 특별강연 •

## Concept and Measurement of Quality of Life in Health Science

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The health status of a population is usually measured by mortality such as crude death rate, cause-specific mortality rate, infant mortality rate and life expectancy. However, these indices based upon mortality (i.e., quantity of life) are increasingly unsatisfactory to assess health status, especially in an aging society. In this presentation, I will discuss the followings as regards quality of life (QOL) in health science.

- (1) Concept of QOL in health science
  - (a) Health status (physical well-being)
  - (b) Social and environmental factors
  - (c) Outcome (psychological well-being)
- (2) Objectives of measuring QOL
  - (a) Study on correlates of QOL
  - (b) Evaluation of intervention
  - (c) Predictor of health status
  - (d) Use as an adjusting factor

(3) Problems related to the measurement of QOL

- (a) Weak correlation between subjective and objective measurements
- (b) So-called beta and gamma change in subjective measurements
- (c) Ethical considerations when applied to decision-making

In conclusion, though the concept of QOL has become increasingly popular and important in health science, it should be applied with caution considering the ethical principle of justice.