

# THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF FILIPINO ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ELDERLY HIP FRACTURES

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**Introduction:** Fragility fractures occur because of low energy trauma to the hip which normally would not cause a fracture. These are a major public health problem with high human, socio-economic impact, morbidity, and mortality. Prompt recognition and management of underlying cause (osteoporosis) is necessary for improved outcomes. Objectives: To assess whether low energy elderly hip fractures are recognized and treated as fragility fractures by Filipino Orthopedic Surgeons. To determine the existing knowledge, prevailing attitudes, and current practices of Filipino Orthopedic Surgeons in managing fragility fractures of the hip. To assess involvement Filipino orthopedic surgeons in the management of osteoporosis in their patients with fragility fractures. Gather baseline information of availability of the Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) and the orthogeriatric team in the Philippines.

**Methodology:** A nationwide online Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) survey regarding management of fragility fractures of the hip was conducted among Filipino orthopedic surgeons. Their answers were compared between groups (Years of practice, Area of practice, Affiliation with orthopedic training program).

**Results:** A total of 244 respondents were included. 11.9% of respondents were able to include 'fragility/osteoporotic fracture' in the primary diagnosis of the given case. Half of the respondents (50.41%) would repair the hip fracture, refer to other specialists, and investigate and initiate osteoporosis treatment. There is still significant unavailability of orthogeriatric services and FLS in the Philippines. Total KAP scores did not vary significantly between groups except in practice. Groups from 0-5 years and the private urban setting had the highest KAP scores.

**Conclusion:** The results showed the KAP scores of Filipino orthopedic surgeons do not vary significantly with regards to elderly fragility hip fractures. 'Fragility fracture' should always be included in the primary diagnosis of low energy elderly hip fractures. Filipino surgeons are willing to participate in osteoporosis care.