

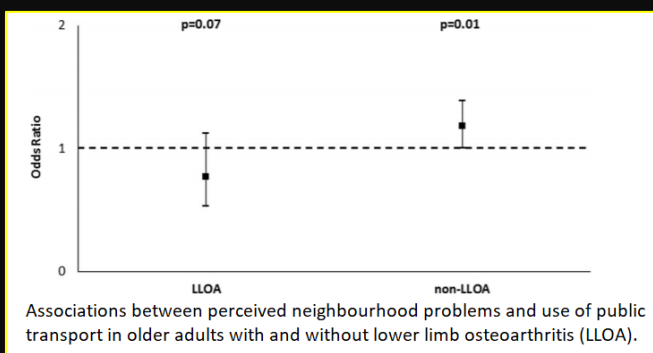
EPOSA FACT

Neighbourhood environment and use of facilities in older adults with and without lower limb osteoarthritis

Use of facilities in the neighbourhood

Neighbourhood characteristics may influence the use of neighbourhood facilities. This influence may be stronger in older adults with disabilities than in those without disabilities. Osteoarthritis of the lower limbs (knees and/or hips) is one of the most common causes of pain and disability in older adults.

In the UK part of the EPOSA study, we examined the associations of perceptions of neighbourhood cohesion and neighbourhood problems and objectively measured neighbourhood deprivation with the use of neighbourhood facilities (parks and walking areas, places to sit and rest, public transport, and public facilities) by older adults with and without lower limb osteoarthritis (LLOA), and assessed whether these associations are stronger in older persons with LLOA than in those without the condition.



Older adults with LLOA perceived more neighbourhood problems than those without LLOA. This may suggest that older persons with LLOA are more vulnerable to environmental demands than those without the condition.

The perception of more neighbourhood problems seems to hinder older adults with LLOA to make use of public transport. Older adults with LLOA may be less able to deal with neighbourhood problems and more challenging environments than those without LLOA.

- Disturbance by children/youngsters
- Vandalism
- Smells/fumes
- Burglaries
- Litter/rubbish
- Noise
- Assaults/muggings
- Traffic