Abstract Paper

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Title: **Demographic Characteristics of Homebound Older Adults in Central Part of Singapore**

Abstract

Introduction

Homebound status is negatively associated with poorer overall health and increased risk of death within 2 years. The purpose of this paper is to examine the referrals of the homebound older patients in the previous year.

This is a retrospective study with a total of 40 older adults based on referrals received for home medical / nursing service (Hua Mei Mobile Clinic of Tsao Foundation) from January 2013 to March 2014 by various healthcare institutions.

Results

The mean age of the older adults is 84.84 (SD = 7.79) comprising of 75% women and 25% men. A probit model for analysis is used to describe the most likely characteristics of older adults who are homebound. There are 2 main findings: Firstly, we have patients with cognitive impairment that affect the ability to perform daily decision making and this is the main factor for being homebound ($p = 0.015$). Secondly, older female patients are more likely to be homebound ($p = 0.093$). Each year of aging increases the risk of being homebound. While not statistically significant, interestingly older adults who are homebound are more likely to receive care from a domestic helper and less from a family member.

Conclusion

A reflection on the attributes of caregivers of the older adults and the impact of care provision on older adults in Singapore will be presented.