

Care Trajectories of Older Adults with Alzheimer Disease in the Emergency Setting

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Introduction

- Older adults with Alzheimer disease have high rates of emergency department (ED) visits, hospital admissions, and revisits to ED
- Few studies have used administrative data to describe care trajectories of older adults with Alzheimer disease from the ED perspective

Objectives: 1) characterize older adults with Alzheimer disease presenting to the ED, and 2) describe their post-ED visit outcomes

Lamantia MA, Stump TE, Messina FC, Miller DK, Callahan CM. Emergency Department Use Among Older Adults With Dementia. *Alzheimer Disease & Associated Disorders*. 2016;30(1):35-40.

Kent T, Lesser A, Israni J, Hwang U, Carpenter C, Ko KJ. 30-Day Emergency Department Revisit Rates among Older Adults with Documented Dementia. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2019;67(11):2254-2259.

Methods

- 66+ years with Alzheimer disease, 33 medical centers across the US, 1+ ED visit from 2014-2018
- Medicare claims data:
 - Two Alzheimer disease diagnoses at least seven days apart, one with office visit
 - Post-ED visit outcomes (ED disposition, healthcare utilization, survival) 12 months after index visit
- Descriptive statistics

Results

- 67,186 patients: 62.4% male, 75.5% white, mean age 83.3

ED Disposition (%)	
Acute Care	54.6
ICU	3.5
Nursing Home	2.8
Hospice	0.3
Home Health	1.4
Home	37.7
Other	2.8

Healthcare Utilization	
ED visits post-index (Mean, SD)	
Visits (Mean, SD)	1.0 (2.5)
1+ visit (%)	42.8
Inpatient stays post-index	
Visits (Mean, SD)	0.9 (1.4)
1+ visit (%)	44.7
Length of Stay (Mean, SD)	6.6 (7.3)
Hospice Admissions (%)	15.6

Death	
Number (%)	23,544 (34.7)
Time from index (median days)	85.0

Conclusions

- Highlights utility of Medicare claims data
- Older adults with Alzheimer disease who visit ED have high rates of admission and subsequent ED visits and admissions despite high mortality
- Foundational for future interventions to address role of ED providers in influencing care trajectories of Alzheimer disease patients

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