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Project Title

Comorbidity, Depression, and Anti-depressant Use Among Canadian Elderly - a Cross-sectional Analysis Using Baseline Data Collected from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging.

Project Summary

Comorbid physical illness and depression become more prevalent among seniors. Failure to diagnose and effectively treat depression when it occurs together with somatic illness can significantly affect senior's quality of life. Susceptibility to multiple pathological processes commonly manifests as cardiovascular disease and disorders of metabolic dysregulation, which may in turn increase the risk of depressive illness. Antidepressant drugs, of themselves, may compound overall deterioration in health status due to metabolic side effects. Given the close association between these clinical variables, it would be of practical interest to understand the correlation between comorbidity profile, depression status, and the use of anti-depressant medications. The goal of our proposal is to analyze baseline data from the CLSA for basic descriptive information on comorbid depression and physical illness with special attention to cardiovascular disease, metabolic diseases, and antidepressant use.

Keywords

Seniors, Depression, Comorbidity, Anti-depressant medication