CLSA Approved Project

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Project Title
Developing a comorbidity index for the CLSA: application to neurologic conditions

Project Summary
The presence of multiple chronic conditions in the same individual (i.e. comorbidity) has become increasingly common. Much of this increasing burden, especially for diseases of the brain, is driven by our aging population. Currently, the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) captures information regarding multiple comorbidities but there is no standardized and scientifically proven method of summarizing their overall burden in an individual. The goal of the proposed study is to develop a summary measure of comorbidity within the CLSA. Once this has been developed in one portion of the CLSA, it will then be applied to other portions of the CLSA to confirm that it performs well. We will carry out sub-analyses to examine what effect age, sex, and language may have on how this algorithm performs. Finally, we will assess how this newly developed summary measure performs among individuals with a disease of the brain.

Keywords
Comorbidity, rating scale development, neurology