Pilot Project: Determinants of and Disparities in Early Diagnoses of Cognitive Impairment among Elderly Population

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Abstract

Dementia describes a group of symptoms, including decline in memory or thinking skills which will limit an individual's ability to perform daily activities. Dementia include Alzheimer's disease (accounting for 60~ 80%), vascular dementia (second most common type) and other conditions. The literature documents that dementia is not being diagnosed early, which generally lead to poor outcomes. The first objective of this study is to examine the determinants of early diagnosis of cognitive impairment among elderly population; the second objective is to determine if racial/ethnic disparities exist in early diagnoses of cognitive impairment among elderly population, and the third objective is to determine if urban-rural disparities exist in early diagnoses of cognitive impairment among elderly population.