

Exploring Factors Related to Unplanning Readmission of Elderly Patients in Taiwan

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Abstract : Background: Unplanned hospital readmissions increase healthcare costs and have been considered a marker of poor healthcare performance. The elderly face a higher risk of unplanned readmission due to elderly-specific characteristics such as deteriorating body functions and the relatively high incidence of complications after treatment of acute diseases. Purpose: The aim of this study was exploring the factors that relate to the unplanned readmission of elderly within 14 days of discharge at our hospital in southern Taiwan. Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of patients aged ≥ 65 years who had been re-admitted between January 2018 and December 2018. The Charlson Comorbidity score was calculated using previous used method. Related factors that affected the rate of unplanned readmission within 14 days of discharge were screened and analyzed using the chi-squared test and logistic regression analysis. Results: This study enrolled 829 subjects aged more than 65 years. The numbers of unplanned readmission patients within 14 days were 318 cases, while those did not belong to the unplanned readmission were 511 cases. In 2018, the rate of elderly patients in unplanned 14 days readmissions was 38.4%. The majority patients were females (166 cases, 52.2%), with an average age of 77.6 ± 7.90 years (65-98). The average value of Charlson Comorbidity score was 4.42 ± 2.76 . Using logistic regression analysis, we found that the gastric or peptic ulcer (OR=1.917, $P < 0.002$), diabetes (OR= 0.722, $P < 0.043$), hemiplegia (OR= 2.292, $P < 0.015$), metastatic solid tumor (OR= 2.204, $P < 0.025$), hypertension (OR= 0.696, $P < 0.044$), and skin ulcer/cellulitis (OR= 2.747, $P < 0.022$) have significantly higher risk of 14-day readmissions. Conclusion: The results of the present study may assist the healthcare teams to understand the factors that may affect unplanned readmission in the elderly. We recommend that these teams give efficient approach in their medical practice, provide timely health education for elderly, and integrative healthcare for chronic diseases in order to reduce unplanned readmissions.

Keywords : unplanning readmission, elderly, Charlson comorbidity score, logistic regression analysis

Conference Title : ICHNMMC 2020 : International Conference on Humanistic Nursing Model and Multicultural Care

Conference Location : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Conference Dates : December 17-18, 2020