RISK FACTORS OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AMONG THE ELDERLY IN TAIWAN

C.H. Yen\textsuperscript{1,2}, P.-J. Yang\textsuperscript{3}, H.W. Lin\textsuperscript{2,3}

\textsuperscript{1}School of Medicine, Chung Shan Medical University, \textsuperscript{2}Department of Family and Community Medicine, \textsuperscript{3}Department of Geriatric Medicine, Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan R.O.C.

Objectives: This study aims to explore the risk factors of cognitive impairment among the elderly in Taiwan.

Methods: Data were derived from a population-based cohort study of 2,310 elderly Taiwanese that were collected in 1999. Cognitive function was measured by the nine-item Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire (SPMSQ) both in 1999 and in 2003. A total of 1,224 participants free of cognitive impairment at baseline were included in these analyses. Gender, age, marriage, chronic diseases, BMI, dietary behavior, depression, ADL, IADL, falls, religion, self-perceived health status, hospitalization history were independent variables and the cognitive function in 2003 was the dependent variable.

Results: 155 out of 1,224 elderly were diagnosed with cognitive impairment between 1999 and 2003. In the logistic regression model adjusted for age, education, chronic diseases at baseline, persons who are 75 (OR = 2.45; 95% CI = 1.59-3.76), females (OR = 1.79, 95% CI = 1.15-2.86), those who had lower educational background (OR = 2.24, 95% CI = 1.05-4.76), those who were diagnosed with cancer (OR = 3.25, 95% CI = 1.26-8.38), those who has been admitted to hospital in the past year (OR = 1.96, 95% CI = 1.23-3.11), those who has IADL impairment (OR = 3.09, 95% CI = 1.98-4.83) were significantly to develop cognitive impairment.

Conclusion: Aged 75 years old, females, lower educational background, who were diagnosed with cancer, has been admitted to hospital in the past year, has IADL deficit were found to be the risk factors of cognitive impairment in this study.