

Disability in community-dwelling older adults: the role of stroke and dementia

Brian J. Stamm

2018

UMMS Capstone for Impact

Branch: Systems Based, Hospital Based

Advisor: Lesli Skolarus

Project Summary

Stroke and dementia are key contributors to disability in the elderly. In older adults suffering from both stroke and dementia, there may be an interaction between these two pathophysiological entities that produces a resultant disability that is greater than the sum of the independent contributions from stroke and dementia. In addition, blacks have higher incidence of stroke, dementia and disability than whites. Thus, we sought to determine the relative contributions of stroke, dementia and the co-occurrence of both conditions to disability and to racial differences in disability.

Action Items/Outcome

We recently submitted our manuscript to the journal, *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, as well as an abstract to the American Neurological Association's Annual Conference.

Conclusion/Reflection

This project has been very exciting for me, as I am very interested in the factors that give rise to disability, particularly those that differentially affect the races. I hope to continue this type of work in my career, and this project has been a great introduction to the field!