**Appendix A. Descriptive Comparison of Frailty and Triage Acuity by Prognostic Factors**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Most Frail^  N = 660 (%) | Least Frail  N = 1256 (%) | *p* | Higher Acuity\*  N = 1674 (%) | Lower Acuity  N = 416 (%) | *p* |
| Age *M* (SD) \* | 82.2 (7.3) | 81.6 (7.4) | < .001 | 82.1 (7.3) | 82.7 (7.5) | .18 |
| Lives Alone | 177 (27.2) | 528 (42.5) | < .001 | 611 (36.9) | 168 (40.6) | .16 |
| Gender (Female) | 409 (62) | 750 (59.7) | .34 | 1024 (61.1) | 258 (62) | .75 |
| Caregiver Distress† | 86 (6.9) | 277 (41.9) | < .001 | 302 (18.1) | 89 (21.4) | .12 |
| Cognitive Impairment ‡  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Potential Delirium ¶ | 269 (40.8)  334 (50.7)  385 (58.3) | 28 (2.2)  67 (5.4)  118 (9.4) | < .001  < .001  < .001 | 251 (12.1)  350 (21.1)  443 (26.5) | 81 (19.6)  92 (22.4)  105 (25.2) | .02  .54  .61 |
| ADL Impairment  Bathing  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Acute Decline from Premorbid \*\*  Personal Hygiene  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Acute Decline from Premorbid \*\*  Dressing Lower Body  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Acute Decline from Premorbid \*\*  Locomotion  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Acute Decline from Premorbid \*\* | 472 (71.5)  581 (88.4)  111 (16.9)  260 (39.4)  373 (56.9)  117 (17.9)  356 (53.9)  486 (73.6)  133 (20.2)  243 (36.8)  432 (65.9)  194 (29.8) | 190 (15.1)  509 (40.8)  319 (25.6)  14 (1.1)  120 (9.6)  107 (8.5)  71 (5.7)  325 (25.9)  255 (20.4)  28 (2.2)  348 (28)  320 (25.7) | < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  .94  < .001  <. 001  .06 | 560 (33.8)  954 (58.1)  399 (24.3)  225 (13.6)  418 (25.2)  196 (11.9)  354 (21.2)  702 (42.1)  349 (21)  239 (14.4)  698 (42.1)  457 (27.8) | 152 (37.3)  220 (54.1)  67 (16.5)  72 (17.3)  116 (28)  46 (11.2)  101 (24.3)  178 (43.2)  81 (19.9)  54 (13.1)  152 (37.5)  97 (24.1) | .19  .14  .001  .04  .23  .69  .17  .69  .61  .52  .09  .14 |
| Any ADL Impairment††  Pre-Morbid §  Admission || | 494 (74.9)  605 (91.7) | 222 (17.7)  603 (48) | < .001  < .001 | 617 (36.9)  1067 (63.7) | 159 (38.2)  244 (58.7) | .16  .06 |
| IADL Status  Difficulty with Medications ‡‡  Difficulty with Stairs §§ | 415 (62.9)  557 (87.4) | 121 (9.6)  545 (43.4) | < .001  < .001 | 479 (28.7)  973 (58.4) | 117 (28.2)  252 (60.8) | .85  .36 |
| Impaired Comprehension ||| | 68 (10.3) | 0 (0) | < .001 | 59 (3.5) | 15 (3.6) | .94 |
| Conditions and Symptoms  Poor Self-Reported Health ¶¶  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Depressive Symptoms \*\*\*  Expresses Anhedonia †††  Any Behaviours ‡‡‡  Hallucinations or Delusions  Falls (last 90 days)  Traumatic Injury  Daily and Severe Pain §§§  Dyspnea ||||  Premorbid §  Admission ||  Unstable Condition ¶¶¶  Decrease food/fluids\*\*\*\*  Weight Loss †††† | 99 (15)  198 (30)  230 (34.9)  343 (51.9)  54 (8.2)  101 (15.3)  298 (45.2)  58 (43.61)  146 (22.1)  182 (27.6)  227 (34.4)  466 (70.6)  281 (42.6)  108 (16.4) | 47 (3.7)  186 (14.8)  157 (12.5)  392 (32.2)  3 (0.2)  16 (1.27)  299 (23.8)  75 (56.39)  225 (17.9)  208 (16.6)  314 (25)  413 (32.9)  279 (22.2)  52 (4.1) | < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  < .001  .03  < .001  <. 001  < .001  < .001  < .001 | 135 (8.1)  351 (20.9)  337 (20.1)  635 (37.9)  44 (2.6)  99 (5.9)  512 (31)  113 (7)  311 (18.6)  367 (21.9)  518 (30.9)  795 (47.8)  529 (31.8)  149 (9) | 32 (7.7)  65 (15.6)  80 (19.23)  121 (29.1)  18 (4.3)  26 (6.3)  153 (37.7)  34 (8.4)  73 (17.6)  56 (13.5)  68 (16.4)  187 (45.1)  94 (22.7)  39 (9.5) | .8  .01  .68  < .001  .07  .8  .01  .33  .63  < .001  < .001  .33  < .001  .74 |
| ED Visitation in the Prior 90 Days | 303 (46.2) | 478 (38.1) | < .001 | 679 (40.6) | 192 (46.3) | .04 |
| ^ Frailty was measured using the emergency department frailty index, with the top 33% percentile labelled as “most frail.”  \* Triage acuity was measured with the CTAS, with CTAS of 1 – 3 labelled as “higher acuity.”  ADL = activities of daily living; IADL = impaired activities of daily living.  † Primary informal helper(s) expresses feelings of distress, anger, or depression  ‡ Modified independent or any impairment in making decisions regarding tasks of daily living.  § Premorbid: the 3-day period prior to the onset of the current acute illness or episode.  || Admission: the past 24 hours or time since acute illness or episode that prompted the ED visit.  ¶ Acute change in mental status from person’s usual functioning (e.g., restlessness, lethargy, difficult to arouse, altered environmental perception).  \*\* Acute decline from premorbid: at admission, new impairment relative to premorbid.  †† Any supervision or any physical assistance in bathing, personal hygiene, dressing lower body, and/or locomotion.  ‡‡ Difficulty remembering to take medicines, opening bottles, taking correct drug dosages, giving injections, or applying ointments.  §§ Supervision or any assistance during full flight of stairs (12 to 14 stairs).  ||| Sometimes, rarely, or never understands direct communication.  ¶¶ When asked, “In general, how would you rate your health?” person responds “Poor.”  \*\*\* When asked, patient reports feeling sad, depressed, or hopeless in past 3 days.  ††† When asked, patient reports little interest or pleasure in things they normally enjoy.  ‡‡‡ In the past 3 days, presence of any one or more of the following: verbal abuse, physical abuse, socially inappropriate, or disruptive behavior, inappropriate public sexual behavior, or public disrobing.  §§§ Pain that is severe or excruciating in past 3 days.  |||| Dyspnea at rest or present when performing normal day-to-day activities.  ¶¶¶ Conditions/diseases make cognitive, ADL, mood, or behavior patterns unstable (fluctuating, precarious, or deteriorating).  \*\*\*\* Noticeable decrease in the amount of food usually eaten or fluids usually consumed.  †††† Weight loss of 5% or more in last 30 days; OR of 10% or more in past 180 days. | | | | | | |