

Longitudinal Analysis of the Cognitive Function of the Elderly in Taiwan

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Abstract

Majority of the dementia (89%) is elderly. Examining the decline of cognitive function is crucial. Many have explored the possible causes of dementia. However, most of them are done in cross-sectional studies. We utilized a set of longitudinal data to examine the long-term change of cognitive function. We used the group-based trajectory method to identify trajectories, and GEE to examine the factors associated with the identified factors. The full model shows (a) decline in ADL, IADL, and having stroke decreased the cognitive function; and (b) higher BMI and exercise would result in better cognitive function given the same age, gender, and education level. Low cognitive function appeared in very early stage.