Anaphylaxis In Elderly Patients Presenting to the Emergency Departments of a Large Health System From January 2016 to December 2017

L. Meir, S. Hab boa, O. Wa qar, C. A. Le auge, A. M. Jongco1,3,4
1Department of Medicine, Donal and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, Manhasset, NY
2Division of Allergy & Immunology, Donal and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, Great Neck, NY
3Center for Health Innovations and Outcomes Research, Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Manhasset, NY

Anaphylaxis is a life threatening systemic and acute allergic reaction that requires immediate recognition and treatment. The prevalence of this condition is unclear. In the United States the prevalence of anaphylaxis is reported to be least 1.6% or higher that requires immediate recognition and treatment. Conversely, the identification and possibly, impact of anaphylaxis among the elderly may differ depending on gender, race, and age. Improving anaphylaxis recognition and diagnosis by ED providers is needed. Accurate analysis of this vulnerable population will help address key deficiencies in our understanding of anaphylaxis epidemiology. Identifying these risk factors may help further enhance awareness amongst clinicians and the general public as well as assist in prevention of the delayed occurrence of anaphylaxis in the elderly.

Anaphylaxis occurred among the elderly presenting to the emergency departments of a large health system. Relying on anaphylaxis ICD-9 codes alone missed more than half of possible cases. The identification and possibly, impact of anaphylaxis among the elderly may differ depending on gender, race, and age. Improving anaphylaxis recognition and diagnosis by ED providers is needed. Accurate analysis of this vulnerable population will help address key deficiencies in our understanding of anaphylaxis epidemiology. Identifying these risk factors may help further enhance awareness amongst clinicians and the general public as well as assist in prevention of the delayed occurrence of anaphylaxis in the elderly.

Anaphylaxis-related grant by Mylan to Dr. Jongco.

This work was funded by an investigator-initiated grant by Mylan to Dr. Jongco.