

Subject: Manuscript # 10601

Title: VARIATION IN RISK FACTORS OF DEMENTIA AMONG FOUR ELDERLY PATIENT COHORTS

Name of Journal: World Journal of Neurology

Dear Editor:

We greatly appreciate a review of our manuscript (#10601, a RETROSPECTIVE STUDY), and we also appreciate three comments (below) that the reviewer made while evaluating and editing our manuscript.

"In this paper, the authors report about the risk factors of dementia among four elderly groups. This is an interesting study. The paper is well written. There are few comments. One of the pitfalls is that the results are not unexpected and similar results have been previously reported. (1) Value of p for Blacks versus Whites is missing. (2) Can the authors briefly comment on the low number of black males in the study? (3) References 18, and 21, should be rewritten. There were some typos that have been corrected and an edited version is attached for the editor."

We have revised the manuscript accordingly and have shown:

1. All p values in the manuscript that apply to black-white differences;
2. We have added additional columns in both Table 1 and Table 2 indicating values for all white and black sub-groups (males + females combined) for additional clarification and added both odd ratios and Confidence intervals in the manuscript, whenever needed.
3. We have corrected references 18 (now #19) and 21 per reviewer's suggestion;
4. We have provided comments in the Discussions Section (see paragraph 3)

as to why few black males existed in our dementia sample. We may point to two reasons for it: (1) we had no control over the patients who were diagnosed with Dementia as all diagnoses are given the attending physicians; (2) there is a higher mortality among black males in general (and a higher mortality among black elderly males with stroke; all such factors combined, lower the number of black males available in the population and thus the lower number of black males in the dementia sample is consistent with what we have available in the black population.

Finally, we recognize that some of our finding support what has been reported previously. However, these findings add to the building blocks of science relative to dementia, and importantly, the findings delineate race-gender differences with regard to differences in both indirect and direct effects of cardiovascular factors that differentially contribute to dementia among the elderly cohorts. This knowledge is important for both the service providers as well as policy makers.

Once again, we appreciate the review and the comments offered for revising the attached REVISED manuscript for publication consideration. I am attaching a completed copyright form.

Cordially yours, BH

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