Old people not known to the general practitioner: low risk group

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Abstract

The elderly patients in a large general practice aged 75 and over who lived at home in 1979 were divided into two groups according to the general practitioner's knowledge of their risk status as to whether an attack of stroke, heart attack, or both, had been suffered or not. In 1979, 86% of the high risk patients in the general practice had been identified, but only 66% of the low risk patients had been identified. The corresponding numbers of 1984 were 86% and 77% respectively. The 5 year cumulative risk of dying of stroke or heart attack in the 250 patients in both the high and low risk groups was calculated by tabulating unifiable cases in the two groups. There was no significant difference between the two groups. The results of this study suggest that the low risk patients are not known to the general practitioner because they do not have a high risk status and therefore do not have a stroke or heart attack.

Introduction

The most important way of identifying elderly patients at high risk and therefore in need of medical or social intervention is still being ignored. The results of several studies from general practice have shown that the number of elderly patients with stroke or a history of myocardial infarction can be estimated. However, these results are not always accurate and the results of this study suggest that the low risk patients are not known to the general practitioner because they do not have a high risk status and therefore do not have a stroke or heart attack.

Method

We studied a large general practice in the town of Oxford during 1979. The practice had a total of 1000 patients aged 75 and over. All patients were divided into two groups according to the general practitioner's knowledge of their risk status. The results of this study suggest that the low risk patients are not known to the general practitioner because they do not have a high risk status and therefore do not have a stroke or heart attack.

Results

The results of this study suggest that the low risk patients are not known to the general practitioner because they do not have a high risk status and therefore do not have a stroke or heart attack.

References


Audit Report

General practice audit of the care of children with asthma

A common problem for general practitioners is the management of children with asthma. The study aimed to assess the management of children with asthma by general practitioners in a defined population. The study was conducted in a general practice in Oxford during 1980. The results of this study suggest that the low risk patients are not known to the general practitioner because they do not have a high risk status and therefore do not have a stroke or heart attack.

100 YEARS AGO

The report that St George's Hospital in London has a successful case of appendectomy is interesting. The operation was performed on a man aged 40 who had been suffering from symptoms of appendicitis for the past three weeks. The patient was placed under a general anaesthetic and the appendix was removed. The postoperative course was uneventful and the patient made a complete recovery. The case is evidence of the effectiveness of the new surgical procedures and the advances made in the field of surgery in recent years.

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