P-905 - DETERMINANTS OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN OLDER PEOPLE FROM THE ENGLISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AGEING

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Introduction: Cross-sectional population studies often suffer from unobserved individual heterogeneity (e.g. genetics or unobserved predisposition to adopt healthy lifestyle) contaminating the estimate of social inequalities on well-being. Accurate estimates of risk factors for impaired quality of life using large epidemiological studies may help to develop services for older people in the community.

Aims: We examined the effect of socio-demographic characteristics, lifestyle choices, smoking status and their impact on quality of life in non-institutionalised older people in six-year follow-up.

Method: English Longitudinal Study of Ageing is current and ongoing longitudinal population studies in England over three waves (2002 = 9,953; 2004 = 8,411; 2006 = 8,411) were recruited. The study collected data on the personal, economic, psychological, and social circumstances of aging from a national sample of the non-institutionalised adults aged 50 years or more living in England. Quality of Life was measured using the CASP-19.

Results: Determinants of quality of life using CASP-19 as the dependent variable were: female gender (beta =1.19, $p < 0.0001$), younger age (beta =-0.56, $p < 0.001$), self-reported health (beta = -4.34, $p < 0.0001$), separation/divorce (beta =0.81 $p < 0.0001$), monthly income (beta = -0.91, $p=0.01$), accumulated wealth (beta = -0.094, $p=0.01$), current smoker (beta =0.34, $p= 0.01$ and socioeconomic ladder (beta =-0.115, $p=0.001$).

Conclusion: Female gender, younger age, poor self-health reported status, family disruption, active smoking and income were predictors of impaired quality of life. Studies are needed in how to address these socio-economic related factors, social habits and smoking to improve the well-being of older people.