PILOT AWARDS
Developing and submitting a competitive, successful application

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NIDUS
Network for Investigation of
Delirium: Unifying Scientists

My Project

- Eventually:
  - Delirium severity and long-term clinical outcomes among persons with and without Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

- For the pilot:
  - Feasibility of assessing delirium severity
  - Feasibility of determining who has ADRD

Scope

- What is in scope?
  - Deciding which delirium, delirium severity instruments to use
  - Deciding which measure of delirium severity to use in analysis
  - Defining ADRD for this study population

- What is out of scope?
  - Clinical outcomes (function, nursing home placement, length of stay, re-hospitalization)

Refining methods

- Cognitive status → Brief cognitive testing
- Delirium → Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

- Delirium severity → CAM-Severity (CAM-S)
  - Peak CAM-S
  - Sum of all CAM-S scores
  - Categorical vs. continuous

Refining methods

- ADRD status determined by cognitive testing, chart review and expert consensus

  - Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) ≥3.2
  - Documentation of dementia by ICD-10 codes
  - Impairment on any of three cognitive tests: Montreal Cognitive Assessment <26, brief cognitive screen <14/16 or MoCA delayed recall of ≤2
  - Very variable documentation of cognitive impairment

Refining methods

- Of the 352 original patients, 197 participants needed chart review by expert clinicians
  - Medications (cholinesterase inhibitors, memantine, vitamin E)
  - Neuroimaging studies
  - Provider notes (inpatient and outpatient) +/- formal neuropsychological evaluation
  - For 24 cases with limited data or lack of agreement, adjudicated by interdisciplinary expert panel until consensus was reached

Outcomes

- Used peak CAM-S categorically
  - Delirium incidence:
    - Persons with ADRD = 45%
    - Persons without ADRD = 19% (50/267)

- ADRD patients
  - 24% of cohort (85/352)
  - Higher peak CAM-S scores

Next steps

- We need a tool that better assesses delirium severity in ADRD patients!
  - External and local expert panels
  - DEL-S-AD

- We need to incorporate more ADRD patients into clinical studies

Thank you!

- Questions?

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