

Ischaemic heart disease and Australian immigrants: the influence of birthplace and language skills on treatment and use of health services

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Reference:

Key Words:

heart disease, hospital admission, NESB and ESB compared

Research aim:

Admission rates for ischaemic heart disease (IHD), and the use of invasive cardiovascular procedures, separation mode and length of stay (LOS) were compared between Australians from non-English speaking background (NESB; n=8627) and English speaking background (ESB; n= 13162) aged 20 years and over admitted to Victorian urban public hospitals.

Results/Conclusion:

It was found that, compared with their ESB counterparts, the incidence of admission for acute myocardial infarction was significantly higher for NESB men and women before and after controlling for confounding factors. Both NESB men (beta=0.04, 95%CI: 0.01-0.07) and women (beta=0.03, 95%CI: 0.02-0.08) experienced significantly longer hospital stays than their ESB counterparts.

Implications:

These findings indicate there may be systematic differences in patients' treatment and service utilisation in Victorian public hospitals. The extent to which physicians' bias and patients' choice could explain these differences requires further investigation.

Cultural Group(s):

People from NESB compared to people from ESB

Location of study:

Age group:

20+

Number included in study:

21,789

Type of participants:

aged 20 years and over admitted to Victorian urban public hospitals between 1993 and 1998

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: