Geriatric rehabilitation of lower limb amputees: a multicenter study.

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Source

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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this study was to determine factors independently associated with successful rehabilitation of patients with lower limb amputation in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). Methods: All patients admitted to one of the 11 participating SNFs were eligible. Multidisciplinary teams collected the data. Successful rehabilitation was defined as discharge to an independent living situation within 1 year after admission. Functional status at discharge, as measured with the Barthel index (BI), was a secondary outcome. Multivariate regression analyses were used to assess the independent contribution of each determinant to the two outcome measures. Results: Of 55 eligible patients, 48 were included. Mean age was 75 years. Sixty-five percent rehabilitated successfully. Multivariate analyses showed that presence of diabetes mellitus (DM) (OR 23.87, CI 2.26-252.47) and premorbid BI (OR 1.37, CI 1.10-1.70) were the most important determinants of successful rehabilitation, whereas 78% of the variance of discharge BI was explained by premorbid BI, BI on admission, and 1-leg balance. Conclusion: The presence of DM and high premorbid BI were associated with discharge to an independent living situation within 1 year after admission. Premorbid BI, admission BI, and 1-leg balance were independently associated to discharge BI.