

### THE MODERATING ROLE OF BIRTHPLACE ON DENTAL CLEANING SERVICE AMONG CHINESE OLDER ADULTS IN HAWAII

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Regular dental cleaning is vital to maintaining good oral health. This study aims to identify socio-demographic characteristics that are associated with the use of dental cleaning services among Chinese older adults in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition, we examine if birth-place moderates these associations. The data for this study were collected from 398 Chinese older adults living in Honolulu. Results from multivariate logistic regressions showed that those who were married and with higher levels of education were more likely to have their teeth cleaned within the past year compared to those who were not married or with lower levels of education. These significant associations were only found salient for the foreign-born when the moderating role of birth place was accounted for in the model. These differences may be partially due to the impact of acculturation and the knowledge of oral health and dental services.

### THE IMPACT OF DIABETES AND POOR ORAL HEALTH ON COGNITION: IMPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE DENTAL CARE ACCESS

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This study examined the joint effects of diabetes and poor oral health on cognitive function among older adults aged 60 years or older in the U.S. We analyzed data of 2,937 participants from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2011-2014). We investigated the interaction effects between diabetes and significant tooth loss, i.e. differences among the following four groups: 1=neither of the two conditions, 2=non-diabetic but with tooth loss, 3=diabetic but no tooth loss, and 4=both conditions. Significant interaction effects were found in our study. Having either diabetes or significant tooth loss was associated with lower cognitive function. When the two conditions were both present, the negative effects were much stronger than the total effects from either one of the two conditions. The additional loss of cognitive function resulting from multiple health conditions illustrates the importance of improving access to dental care for older adults in the U.S.

## SESSION 3165 (SYMPOSIUM)

### ENHANCING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF RURAL VETERANS' CARE THROUGH TELEMEDICINE IMPLEMENTATION

Chair: Aaron T. Seaman, *Iowa City VA Healthcare System, Iowa City, Iowa, United States*

Co-Chair: Samantha Solimeo, *Center for Access and Delivery Research and Evaluation, Primary Care Analytics Team, Iowa City VA Health Care System, Iowa City, Iowa, United States*

Discussant: Byron Bair, *VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States*

Telemedicine, a promising approach for clinicians to provide care to patients who are unable to attend face-to-face encounters, has been embraced by the Veterans Health Administration to improve the delivery of specialty care to rural Veterans and their caregivers. Presenters in this symposium report on the potential and challenges of telemedicine in a variety of specialty care contexts. Stakeholder (Veteran, caregiver, and provider) perspectives are discussed. Hung et al.'s study examines the implementation of a teleconsultation intervention designed to connect geriatric teams with rural clinics, reporting on both patient outcomes and the challenges of implementation variability that teams encountered. Solimeo, et al.'s qualitative study of primary care providers' experience of an osteoporosis telemedicine clinic's outreach and care delivery demonstrates stakeholder acceptance as well as potential missed opportunities for patient and provider education. Findings from Nichols and Martindale-Adams' mixed methods evaluation of a telephone intervention to assist caregivers of older, rural-dwelling Veterans demonstrate the impact the intervention has had on participants' perceptions of and abilities to care for their family members and themselves. Hicken et al. present on the implementation of a videoconferencing intervention to provide in-home support to rural Veterans and their caregivers, reporting on both provider and patient/caregiver experiences of the intervention and its implementation. The four studies highlight the unique ways telemedicine can improve care and the necessity of including stakeholder perspectives across the implementation process.

### THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF SEAMLESS IMPLEMENTATION OF A RURAL TELEMEDICINE CLINIC

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Osteoporosis is largely undetected and untreated in older men who are at-risk, with even lower rates of detection and treatment in rural communities. In this presentation we report the consequences for primary care providers (PCPs) of the implementation of an osteoporosis telemedicine clinic that targeted rural patients and is purposefully designed to minimize PCP workload. Analysis of qualitative interviews with PCPs who co-managed patients with the telemedicine clinic confirmed that implementation strategies used by the telemedicine clinic were successful at minimizing workload and had a positive impact on PCPs' work. However, the clinic's seamless approach may have contributed to unintended consequences of low PCP awareness of program care processes and selection criteria and a missed opportunity for PCPs to reinforce osteoporosis care goals in the primary care setting.