

Preventing future falls in older people presenting to the Emergency Department following a fall - Preliminary analysis

This project commenced in 2003 and will be completed at the end of 2006. Preliminary analysis showed that the most prevalent potentially modifiable risk factors for further falls were the presence of home hazards (73.9% of participants; CI 67.4%-80.4%), polypharmacy (72.2%; CI 65.5%-78.8%) and decreased balance (63.1%; CI 55.9% to 70.2%). The average scores on the balance and mobility measures were comparable to other high-risk samples such as those attending a specialist falls clinic. The most common interventions required after the assessment were referral to the General Practitioner (95.5%; CI 91.1%-99.8%), Physiotherapist (44.3%; CI 33.9%-54.7%) and Occupational Therapist (27.3%; CI 18.0%-36.6%). These results have been presented at the National Falls Injury Conference in Sydney in November, 2004.