

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: Christakis NA, Allison PD. Mortality after the hospitalization of a spouse. *N Engl J Med* 2006;354:719-30.

Web Only Appendix Table: Odds Ratios for Death Within Six Months, Conditional on New Spousal Hospitalization, by Spousal Diagnosis

Disease category	Association (Odds Ratio) of wife's diagnosis with husband's risk of death within six months	95% CI	Association (Odds Ratio) of husband's diagnosis with wife's risk of death within six months	95% CI
Lung Cancer	0.96	(0.74 - 1.25)	1.27	(0.99 - 1.62)
Colon Cancer	1.15	(0.97 - 1.37)	0.97	(0.78 - 1.22)
Pancreas Cancer	1.31	(0.82 - 2.10)	1.66	(0.94 - 2.94)
Leukemia or Lymphoma	1.61	(1.23 - 2.09)	1.10	(0.77 - 1.58)
All Other Malignancies	1.03	(0.93 - 1.14)	1.06	(0.93 - 1.21)
Abdominal Surgical Disease	1.12	(1.04 - 1.21)	1.19	(1.08 - 1.32)
Pneumonia	1.33	(1.21 - 1.45)	1.23	(1.12 - 1.35)
Sepsis	1.20	(1.01 - 1.43)	1.14	(0.92 - 1.41)
Ischemic Heart Disease	1.12	(1.04 - 1.20)	1.13	(1.05 - 1.23)
Stroke	1.11	(1.02 - 1.19)	1.10	(1.01 - 1.21)
Congestive Heart Failure	1.11	(1.00 - 1.22)	1.27	(1.14 - 1.42)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	1.21	(1.06 - 1.38)	1.36	(1.17 - 1.59)
Hip and Serious Fractures	1.35	(1.25 - 1.46)	1.18	(1.03 - 1.35)
Psychiatric Disease	1.58	(1.36 - 1.85)	1.77	(1.39 - 2.26)
Dementia	1.47	(1.22 - 1.78)	1.38	(1.11 - 1.73)
All Other Diagnoses	1.14	(1.11 - 1.18)	1.18	(1.13 - 1.23)

This table gives the relative odds (in the form of odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals) of a person dying on any particular day within six months after a spouse's hospitalization, according to spousal diagnosis. These estimates are generated by case-time-control models implemented separately for husbands and wives, in the full sample of 518,240 couples.

Hospitalization for stroke, heart attack, pneumonia, or hip fracture in a woman increases a husband's odds of death, net of all stable measured or unmeasured attributes of both partners, between 10% and 35%. Hospitalization with diseases such as dementia or psychiatric conditions increases the odds of a husband's death by 47% and 58% respectively. The diagnosis of most cancers in a wife does not affect her husband's risk of death within six months. Similarly, hospitalization for stroke, heart attack, pneumonia, or hip fracture in a man increases a wife's odds of death within six months between 10 and 23%. Hospitalization with diseases such as dementia or psychiatric conditions increases the odds of a wife's death by 38% and 77% respectively. The diagnosis of cancer in a husband does not appear to affect his wife's risk of death.