



Research In Progress

Older Occupants' Long Term, Post Vehicle Crash Medical Outcomes

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It is generally accepted that older occupants have an elevated risk of injury or death from vehicle crashes. Little is known, however, about the long term medical outcomes for older adults who survive more than 30 days after a crash. This project will provide information about the extent to which older occupants who are injured in vehicle crashes return to their pre crash level of functioning, experience a prolonged period of disability, or die more than 30 days post crash as a result of crash related injuries.

Older adults admitted to Louisiana State University Health Services Center due to vehicle crash injuries will be invited to participate in the study. Data will be collected on costs related to crash injuries and on ways injuries affected participants' functional abilities and other measures of quality of life. These data will be monitored for approximately 18 months following the crash. Similar data will be collected on two comparison groups. Data from middle aged participants who have experienced crashes of similar severity will provide information about the effects of age on recovery. An older adult comparison group whose members have not experienced recent crashes will provide information about the degree to which crash related injuries change the trajectory of declines in functionality associated with normal aging.

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