

Association Between Charlson Comorbidity Index and Community-Acquired Pressure Injury in Older Acute Inpatients in a Chinese Tertiary Hospital

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Purpose: To explore the correlation between community-acquired pressure injury (CAPI) and comorbidities in elderly patients with emergency admission.

Patients and Methods: Patients aged 65 years or above were enrolled from multiple departments, such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Geriatrics, and Intensive Care Unit of Wuhan Third Hospital, which is affiliated to Wuhan University, from January to December 2020. Comorbidity data were extracted using the 10th edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) from the hospital electronic medical record system, and the Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) was calculated using these data. Participants were divided into two groups according to whether pressure injury was present at admission. The baseline characteristics of the two groups were compared using Student's *t*-tests, Mann–Whitney *U*-tests, and chi-square tests. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression models were constructed to explore the relationship between CAPI and the CCI. Smooth curve fitting was used to show the relationship between the CCI and CAPI. By drawing the receiver operating characteristic curve, the CCI was used to predict CAPI.

Results: A total of 5759 participants with an average age of 75.1 ± 7.6 were included in this population-based study. The prevalence of CAPI was 4.3%. In logistic regression analysis, there was a positive relationship between the CCI and CAPI after adjustment for sex, age, hypoproteinemia, and anemia (OR = 1.37, 95% CI = 1.29–1.45, $p < 0.001$, trend test $p < 0.001$). The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve was 0.75, and the maximum value of the Youden index was 0.35, with a critical value of 5.5.

Conclusion: The development of CAPI was positively correlated with the CCI. The risk of developing pressure injury increases with the number and severity of comorbidities. This study shows that the CCI has certain reference value in predicting CAPI.

Keywords: aged, comorbidity, chronic disease, frailty, pressure ulcer, present on admission

Introduction

A pressure injury (PI) is defined as a localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue, usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear.¹ It is a major health challenge worldwide that imposes a significant financial burden on healthcare systems and negatively affects people's quality of life.² People of any age and with any health condition can be affected by PI, but it is most common among elderly and critically ill people with several comorbidities.³ Populations are aging and life expectancy is increasing,

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and 23% of the total global burden of disease is now associated with chronic diseases in people aged 60 and over.⁴ As a result, a large number of elderly people living in communities may be potentially at risk of developing PI. Some studies have confirmed that older adults living in the community become more vulnerable to developing PI with increasing age and multiple comorbidities.⁵ However, current research on PI has mainly focused on the hospital setting, and research examining the presence of PI before hospitalization, known as community-acquired PI (CAPI), has been limited.⁶ In addition, researchers have found that environmental factors are related to the occurrence of PI.⁷ Therefore, CAPI needs further study.

Comorbidity is defined as the “presence of more than one disorder in a person in a defined period of time.”⁸ The Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) is a weighted index of comorbidity that combines the number and severity of the conditions.⁹ The CCI is used widely in clinical research to explore the influence of comorbidity on prognosis and outcome. The CCI is a well-established surrogate marker of comorbidity.¹⁰

With further study of the etiology of PI, it has been found that internal factors characterized by comorbidity play an important role in the pathogenesis of PI.¹¹ Although researchers have recognized that contributing comorbidities are associated with the development of PI, the effects of the combination, number, and severity of comorbid conditions on PI are unknown, and there have been few studies examining the correlation between multiple comorbidities as the main exposure factor and PI. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to explore the association between the CCI and CAPI to provide a reference for family caregivers and community workers to prevent CAPI and to promote clinical workers’ understanding of the etiology of PI. This will provide a basis for further study of the influence of different combinations of comorbidities on PI.

Methods

Study Design

This was a case-control study, and it was registered with the China Clinical Trial Center (ChiCTR2100047018, reg. date: 2021/06/07). Participants aged 65 years or above were enrolled from the acute inpatients admitted to the multiple department, such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Geriatrics, and Intensive Care Unit in Wuhan Third Hospital, which is affiliated to

Wuhan University, from January to December 2020. All participants were residents of urban communities.

Demographic and clinical characteristics of participants were extracted from the hospital’s electronic medical records system. This was a retrospective study and all variables were collected prior to the study. First, we extracted participants’ gender, age, all diagnoses names and diagnostic codes to establish a database. These diagnostic codes were based on the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). Secondly, Charlson comorbidities was extracted with ICD-10 codes listed in Table 1,^{12,13} and their CCI values were calculated. However, acute comorbidity diagnosed for the first time was excluded from the calculation of CCI. Finally, enter the diagnostic names “hypoproteinemia” and “anemia” respectively to find participants with hypoproteinemia and anemia, but acute anemia was ruled out. The establishment of CAPI was based on nursing records from the first nursing assessment within 4 h of admission. CAPI data are extracted from the nursing PI reporting system. The participants were divided into a case group and a control group according to whether CAPI was present on admission.

This study was conducted in compliance with the Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects and the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in Brazil 2013). It was approved by the Wuhan Third Hospital affiliated to Wuhan University Ethics Committee (number KY2021-011). The study’s data was anonymous, and the requirement for informed consent was therefore waived.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria were as follows: the inpatients aged 65 and older between January and December 2020. The exclusion criteria were as follows: patients with repeated admissions, younger than 65 years of age, hospital-acquired PI, PI was not described in the case record or was inconsistent. The inclusion and exclusion process is shown in Figure 1.

CAPI Measurements

All patients completed the first nursing assessment within 4 h of admission, and each patient’s skin condition was recorded. The definition, staging, and characteristics of PI were revised by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel in 2016.¹⁴ Stage 1 PI is local skin integrity with non-blanchable erythema. In Stage 2 PI, the epidermis is lost

Table 1 Charlson Comorbidity Index with International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) Coding

Comorbidity	ICD-10	Assigned Weights for Diseases
Myocardial infarction	I21.x, I22.x, I25.2	1
Congestive heart failure	I09.9, I11.0, I13.0, I13.2, I25.5, I42.0, I42.5–I42.9, I43.x, I50.x, P29.0	1
Peripheral vascular disease	I70.x, I71.x, I73.1, I73.8, I73.9, I77.1, I79.0, I79.2, K55.1, K55.8, K55.9, Z95.8, Z95.9	1
Cerebrovascular disease	G45.x, G46.x, H34.0, I60.x–I69.x	1
Dementia	F00.x–F03.x, F05.1, G30.x, G31.1	1
Peptic ulcer disease	K25.x–K28.x	1
Chronic Pulmonary disease	I27.8, I27.9, J40.x–J47.x, J60.x–J67.x, J68.4, J70.1, J70.3	1
Rheumatic disease	M05.x, M06.x, M31.5, M32.x–M34.x, M35.1, M35.3, M36.0	1
Diabetes (end-organ damage)	E10.2–E10.5, E10.7, E11.2–E11.5, E11.7, E12.2–E12.5, E12.7, E13.2–E13.5, E13.7, E14.2–E14.5, E14.7	2
Diabetes (uncomplicated)	E10.0, E10.1, E10.6, E10.8, E10.9, E11.0, E11.1, E11.6, E11.8, E11.9, E12.0, E12.1, E12.6, E12.8, E12.9, E13.0, E13.1, E13.6, E13.8, E13.9, E14.0, E14.1, E14.6, E14.8, E14.9	1
Moderate or severe renal disease	I12.0, I13.1, N03.2–N03.7, N05.2–N05.7, N18.x, N19.x, N25.0, Z49.0–Z49.2, Z94.0, Z99.2	2
Hemiplegia/paraplegia	G04.1, G11.4, G80.1, G80.2, G81.x, G82.x, G83.0–G83.4, G83.9	2
Liver disease(mild)	B18.x, K70.0–K70.3, K70.9, K71.3–K71.5, 71.7, K73.x, K74.x, K76.0, K76.2–K76.4, 76.8, K76.9, Z94.4	1
Liver disease (severe)	I85.0, I85.9, I86.4, I98.2, K70.4, K71.1, K72.1, K72.9, K76.5, K76.6, K76.7	3
Any malignancy, including lymphoma and leukemia	C00.x–C26.x, C30.x–C34.x, C37.x–C41.x, 43.x, C45.x–C58.x, C60.x–C76.x, 81.x–C85.x, C88.x, C90.x–C97.x	2
Metastatic solid tumor	C77.x–C80.x	6
AIDS/HIV	B20–24B20.x–B22.x, B24.x	6

Abbreviations: AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency virus; HIV, human immunodeficiency syndrome; ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases.

and the dermis is exposed, forming superficial ulcers. Stage 3 is a full-thickness loss of skin with adipose tissue visible. Stage 4 is a full-thickness skin defect with the tendon fascia skeleton exposed. Non-staging refers to full-thickness skin and tissue loss covered by scabs or carrion, meaning that the depth of the damage cannot be determined. Deep tissue damage often presents as skin integrity with pain and changes in skin temperature, with purple or maroon skin color or congestive blisters.

CCI Measurements

The CCI, introduced by Charlson et al in 1987, is a score based on the number and severity of chronic diseases that accompany a patient's major disease. It considers 19 comorbid conditions, which are each given a score of 1,

2, 3, or 6. Age-based scoring starts at the age of 50 years, with a 1-point increase for every 10 years above age 50. The sum of all these scores determines the CCI, which ranges from 0 to 24. It contains 19 categories of diseases and their score weights are reproduced in [Appendix Table 1](#).

ICD Measurements

The ICD-10 is the current version of an internationally unified disease-classification system developed by the World Health Organization. The system of coding for a disease is based on its etiological, pathological, clinical, and anatomical features. Comorbidity status was classified using the CCI based on the ICD-10 (see [Table 1](#)).

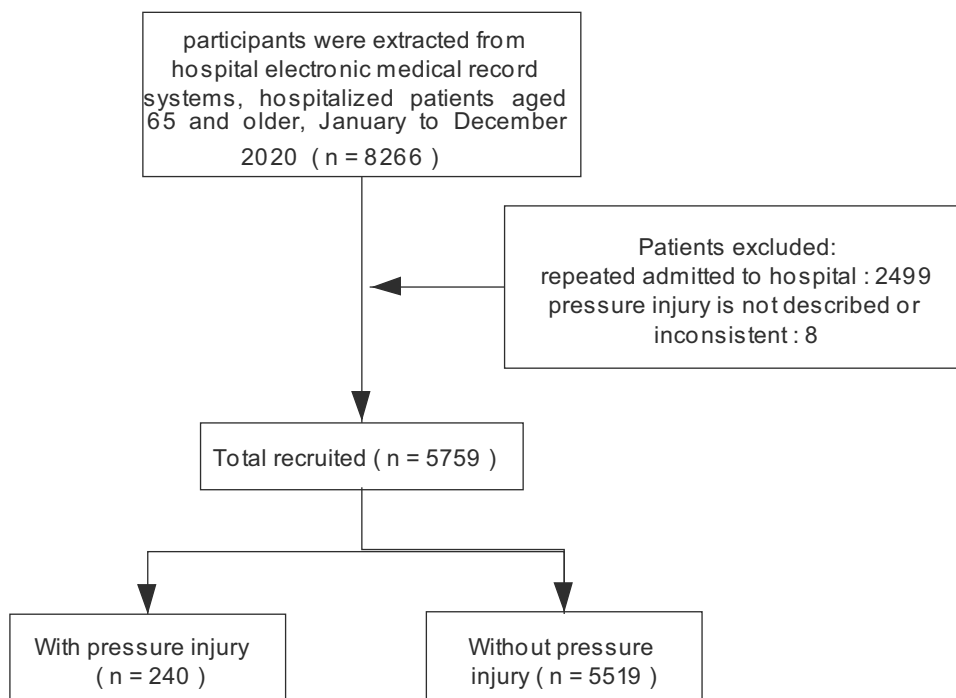


Figure 1 Flow diagram of the screening and enrollment of study participants.

Statistical Analysis

All the analyses were performed with the statistical software package R version 3.3.2 (<https://www.r-project.org/>, The R Foundation) and the Free Statistics software package version 1.3. Two-tailed tests were performed, with $p < 0.05$ being considered statistically significant. The baseline characteristics of the participants are expressed as “mean \pm standard deviation” (normal distribution) or “median (interquartile range [IQR])” (skewed distribution) for continuous variables, and as percentages for categorical variables. For patient demographics and clinical characteristics, differences between groups were assessed using a chi-squared test for categorical variables, and Student’s t -test or the Mann–Whitney U -test for continuous variables. In this study, univariate logistic regression was used to investigate the associations between the demographic data and clinical characteristics of participants and their CAPI status. The effect of the CCI on CAPI was evaluated using binary logistic regression models (odds ratio [OR] and 95% confidence interval [CI]) with adjustment for major covariables including age, sex, hypoproteinemia, and anemia. The study converted the CCI into a categorical variable and calculated the p value for the trend to verify the results of the CCI as the continuous variable. Smooth curve fitting were used to show the

relationship between the CCI and CAPI. By drawing the receiver operating characteristic curve, the CCI was used to predict CAPI.

Results

In this population-based case-control study, the prevalence of CAPI was 4.3% in acute inpatients aged 65 and older. The mean age of participants without PI was 74.9 ± 7.5 years, and the mean age of those with PI was 78.0 ± 8.6 years. A comparison of demographic information and clinical characteristics between the two groups is shown in Table 2.

In univariate analysis, gender, age, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, cerebrovascular disease, dementia, moderate or severe renal disease, hemiplegia/paraplegia, severe liver disease, metastatic tumor, hypoproteinemia, and anemia complications were significantly associated with the occurrence of CAPI. The risk of PI was 37% higher in men than in women, and the risk of developing PI increased by 6% for each additional year of age (see Table 3).

A positive relationship was found between the CCI and CAPI in the logistic regression analysis. In non-adjusted Model (OR = 1.45, 95% CI = 1.37–1.53, $p < 0.001$), and after adjustment for sex, age, hypoproteinemia, and anemia (OR = 1.37, 95% CI = 1.29–1.45, $p < 0.001$). The CCI

was divided into three groups with scores of 2–3, 4–6, or ≥ 7 . The adjusted model showed that the risk of CAPI increased with increasing CCI; trend test $p < 0.001$ (see Table 4).

To further verify the relationship between CCI and CAPI, smooth curve fitting showed that there was a nonlinear relationship between the CCI and CAPI (p for non-linearity: <0.001 , Figure 2). By drawing the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, the CCI was used to predict CAPI. The resulting area under the ROC curve was 0.75 (95% CI = 0.7470–0.7755), and the maximum value of the Youden index was 0.35 with a critical value of 5.5 (Figure 3).

Discussion

The development of a PI is a complex process that cannot be explained by a single factor but is the result of the interaction between internal and external factors for each individual.^{15,16} Regrettably, internal factors are often downplayed or disregarded.¹⁷ Older people are often at risk of multiple comorbidities,¹⁸ and the interactions between comorbidities can increase the complexity of internal factors that cannot be observed directly, making the prevention of PI more difficult. The CCI addresses this complex interaction of multiple comorbidities into a single numeric score, thereby quantifying these complex internal factors and making them observable.¹⁹ In the original study, the CCI covered 19 chronic diseases, and these were weighted according to their potential influence on mortality; this was validated for predicting the 1-year mortality in a cohort of hospitalized patients.⁹ Although the CCI was developed and validated in hospitalized patients, it was further adapted and validated in primary care and community populations, being used to describe the effect of comorbidity in community populations on health outcomes.²⁰ Therefore, previous studies also provide a basis for this study.

The original CCI was based on a review of medical records, and it was first defined by the ICD in the 1990s.²¹ The ICD is updated as the understanding of chronic diseases evolves, and there are therefore also different versions of the CCI. Several previous studies do not specify the CCI version considered, which ICD edition was applied, or the weightings that were used. This may affect the accuracy and reproducibility of their results. In this study, the ICD-10 version of the CCI was used, and the weights of the comorbidities were clearly defined. This

improves the credibility of the present results and is a point of difference between this and other studies.

According to the results of Jaul et al's research,¹¹ multiple chronic diseases and complicating factors associated with immobility, tissue ischemia, and undernutrition are causes of PI among older adults in community settings. PI is caused by a constant external pressure on local tissues that cannot be released, and it's addressed via pressure redistribution. However, aging leads to physical decline and limited mobility, they are unable to change their position autonomously to relieve pressure, resulting in persistent exposure to pressure and shear. Therefore, immobility is the immediate cause of PI. Elderly people with multiple chronic diseases often face the cumulative effects of impaired functions of multiple systems, which can aggravate their frailty and lead to limited mobility. Long-duration chronic diseases lead to increased nutrient consumption and decreased physiological reserves while increasing the vulnerability of the skin and susceptibility to PI.²² As a result, comorbidity may reduce an individual's ability to cope with pressure.

The CCI includes chronic diseases, and among these, congestive heart failure and liver and kidney failure may cause chronic edema and increase skin vulnerability. Neurological diseases such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease may cause agitation and friction. Parkinson's disease, antipsychotic drugs, and dementia increase the risk of spasticity. Cancer and other terminal conditions can impair immunocompetence. For example, end-stage renal disease, Uremia is often accompanied by gastrointestinal symptoms, it can significantly affect the ingestion, digestion, and absorption of nutrients, thus resulting in the deterioration of nutritional status.²³ Most patients with chronic liver disease have poor appetite and low intake, end-stage liver disease and its complications affect energy synthesis and metabolism, which in turn influence nutritional status.²⁴ Patients with malignant tumors are often in a state of high catabolism and low anabolism, and a large amount of muscle tissue is consumed, leading to physical degeneration and malnutrition, and the body's activity ability is impaired due to the consumption of muscle tissue.²⁵ Therefore, multiple comorbidities influence all of the body's systems, including the skin,²⁶ and it appears that the prevalence of PI increases with underlying disease.²⁷ This was also confirmed in this study, and CCI was found to be positively correlated with CAPI.

This study showed that peripheral vascular disease, rheumatism and digestive ulcer diseases had no significant

Table 2 Differences in Baseline Characteristics Between without Pressure Injury and with Pressure Injury

Participants (n)	Total (n = 5759)	Without Pressure Injury (n = 5519)	With Pressure Injury (n = 240)	p value*
Sex, n (%)				< 0.001
Male	2803 (48.7)	2660 (48.2)	143 (59.6)	
Female	2956 (51.3)	2859 (51.8)	97 (40.4)	
Age(years) Mean \pm SD	75.1 \pm 7.6	74.9 \pm 7.5	78.8 \pm 8.6	< 0.001
CCI Median (IQR)	5.0 (4.0, 6.0)	5.0 (4.0, 6.0)	6.0 (5.0, 8.0)	< 0.001
Comorbidity				
Myocardial infarction, n (%)	147 (2.6)	134 (2.4)	13 (5.4)	0.008
Congestive heart failure, n (%)	755 (13.1)	693 (12.6)	62 (25.8)	< 0.001
Peripheral vascular disease, n (%)	361 (6.3)	350 (6.3)	11 (4.6)	0.335
Cerebrovascular disease, n (%)	2256 (39.2)	2145 (38.9)	111 (46.2)	0.026
Dementia, n (%)	138 (2.4)	116 (2.1)	22 (9.2)	< 0.001
Peptic injury disease, n (%)	170 (3.0)	165 (3)	5 (2.1)	0.537
Chronic Pulmonary disease, n (%)	713 (12.4)	692 (12.5)	21 (8.8)	0.1
Rheumatic disease, n (%)	55 (1.0)	51 (0.9)	4 (1.7)	0.29
Moderate or severe renal disease n (%)	424 (7.4)	396 (7.2)	28 (11.7)	0.013
Diabetes, n (%) uncomplicated	1122 (19.5)	1086 (19.7)	36 (15)	0.088
End-organ damage	484 (8.4)	468 (8.5)	16 (6.7)	0.383
Hemiplegia/paraplegia, n (%)	163 (2.8)	128 (2.3)	35 (14.6)	< 0.001
Solid tumor n (%) localized	325 (5.6)	307 (5.6)	18 (7.5)	0.536
Metastatic	129 (2.2)	106 (1.9)	23 (9.6)	< 0.001
Liver disease, n (%) mild	966 (16.8)	956 (17.3)	10 (4.2)	< 0.001
Severe	173 (3.0)	150 (2.7)	23 (9.6)	< 0.001
Leukemia, n (%)	18 (0.3)	17 (0.3)	1 (0.4)	0.536
Lymphoma, n (%)	7 (0.1)	7 (0.1)	0 (0)	1
AIDS/HIV, n (%)	3 (0.1)	2 (0)	1 (0.4)	0.12
Hypoproteinemia, n (%)	508 (8.8)	449 (8.1)	59 (24.6)	< 0.001
Anemia, n (%)	663 (11.5)	618 (11.2)	45 (18.8)	< 0.001

Notes: Data presented are mean \pm SD, median (Q1–Q3), or N (%). *Continuous variables were compared between the groups by the Student's *t*-test or the Mann-Whitney *U*-test. The chi-square test was used for categorical variables.

Abbreviations: CCI, Charlson Comorbidity Index; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

correlation with CAPI, which these comorbidities may not be independent risk factors for PI, but the effect of their combinations on PI is unknown. Leukemia, Lymphoma and HIV/AIDS included a relatively small number of patients, making significance difficult to achieve for the variables analyzed. It is worth noting that there is no significant correlation between diabetes and PI, which may be that diabetes is very common in older adults with or without PI. Therefore, the significance of the difference between PI and diabetes is obscured.

Previous studies have confirmed that low levels serum Albumin and Hemoglobin and higher age increase the risk of PI, which were confirmed in this study. In univariate analysis, gender, age, hypoproteinemia, and anemia were significantly associated with PI. Therefore, these factors

that might influence the study results must be excluded. So, after controlling for confounding factors in the regression analysis, the risk of the occurrence of CAPI was found to increase by 37% for every 1-point score increase in the CCI. This suggests that the risk of CAPI increases with the number and severity of comorbidities. In this study, smooth curve fitting was used to confirm the relationship between the CCI and CAPI (see [Figure 2](#)). Similar to the results of this study, Kalava et al found that CCI was associated with an increased risk of PI in 60 elderly people living in the community; for every 1-point increase in the CCI, the risk of developing PI increased by 14%.²⁸

The present study found that in those over 65 years of age, for each additional year of age, the risk of developing PI increased by 6%. This increasing age may be the result

Table 3 Univariate Analysis of Community-Acquired Pressure Injury

Comorbidity	OR (95% CI)	P-value
Age(years)	1.06 (1.05, 1.08)	< 0.001
Sex (female)	0.63 (0.49, 0.82)	< 0.001
Myocardial infarction	2.3 (1.28, 4.13)	0.005
Congestive heart failure	2.43 (1.8, 3.27)	< 0.001
Peripheral vascular disease	0.71 (0.38, 1.31)	0.274
Cerebrovascular disease	1.35 (1.04, 1.75)	0.022
Dementia	4.74 (2.92, 7.56)	< 0.001
Chronic Pulmonary disease	0.67 (0.42, 1.05)	0.083
Rheumatic disease	1.82 (0.65, 5.07)	0.254
Peptic injury disease	0.69 (0.28, 1.7)	0.419
Moderate or severe renal disease	1.71 (1.14, 2.57)	0.010
Hemiplegia/paraplegia	7.19 (4.82, 10.72)	< 0.001
Leukemia	1.16 (0.42, 3.2)	0.769
Lymphoma	0 (0, 3.29)	0.973
AIDS/HIV	1.5 (1.01, 2.24)	0.050
Diabetes		
Uncomplicated	0.72 (0.5~1.03)	0.074
End-organ damage	3.79 (2.4~6.01)	0.323
Liver disease		
Moderate	0.31 (0.04, 2.22)	0.243
Severe	1.37 (1.11, 1.69)	< 0.001
Solid tumor		
Localized	1.38 (0.84, 2.26)	0.205
Metastatic	5.41 (3.38, 8.67)	< 0.001
Hypoproteinemia	3.68 (2.7, 5.01)	< 0.001
Anemia	1.83 (1.31, 2.56)	< 0.001

Abbreviations: HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; OR, odd ratio; CI, confidence interval.

of increasing skin aging, epidermal barrier defects, and immune senescence increasing skin vulnerability, as well as subcutaneous fat atrophy and the underlying bony structure providing less support to the skin.²⁹

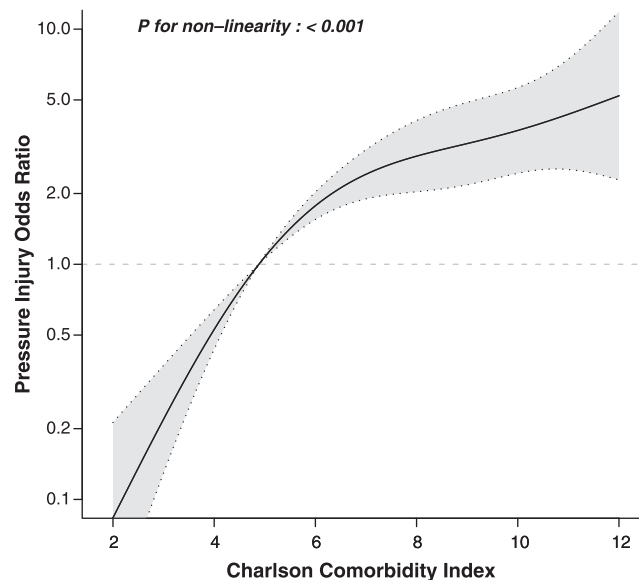


Figure 2 Association between CCI and risk of CAPI. The black solid curve represents the odds ratio, and the gray area indicates its 95% confidence interval.

This study also found a correlation between gender and the occurrence of CAPI, which is in contrast to the results of other studies. The higher risk of CAPI found in males may be related to the different lifestyle habits of people of different genders, and this needs to be studied further. Anemic and hypoproteinemic elderly people were found to have a higher risk of CAPI, and this is consistent with the results of previous studies.

In addition, through analysis of the ROC curve and the Youden index, we determined that when the CCI score exceeds 5.5, we should be vigilant about the risk of CAPI. A 10-year PI prevalence survey from China reported that 71.3% of patients with PI had a CCI score 4 or higher, also the results indicate that CCI may be a good indicator for PI risk assessment.³⁰ This is similar to the results of our

Table 4 Association Between Charlson Comorbidity Index and Occurrence Pressure Injury in Regression Model

Outcome	Non-Adjusted Model		Model I		Model II	
	OR (95% CI)	P value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value
CCI (total score)	1.45 (1.37,1.53)	< 0.001	1.4 (1.32,1.48)	< 0.001	1.37 (1.29,1.45)	< 0.001
CCI (classification)						
2-3	Reference		Reference		Reference	
4-6	8.56 (3.76,19.46)	<0.001	6.97 (3.04,15.99)	<0.001	6.85 (2.99,15.71)	<0.001
≥7	28.72(2.57,65.59)	<0.001	20.66 (8.9,47.96)	<0.001	19.23 (8.27,44.72)	<0.001
Trend test	3.93 (3.15,4.92)	<0.001	3.4 (2.69,4.3)	<0.001	3.25 (2.57,4.12)	<0.001

Notes: Model I: adjust for age and sex. Model II: adjusts for Model I+hypoproteinemia, anemia.

Abbreviations: OR, odd ratio; CI, confidence interval; CCI, Charlson Comorbidity Index.

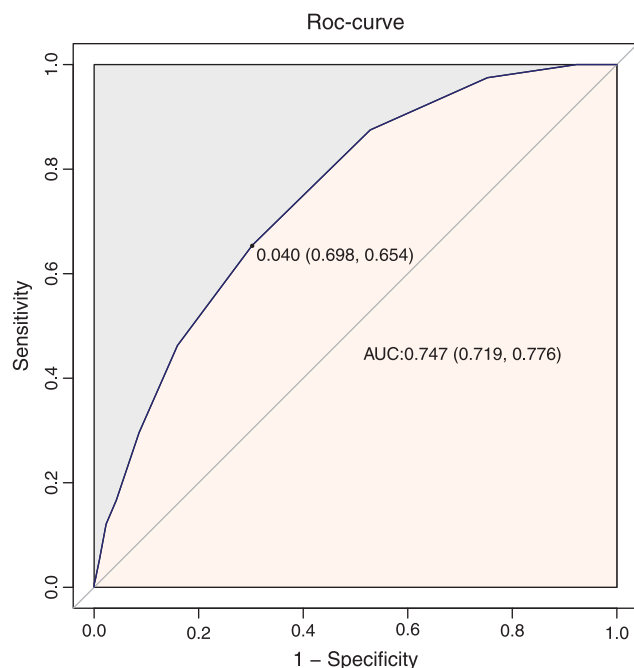


Figure 3 Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve of CAPI and CCI, constructed to evaluate the sensitivity and 1-specificity of CCI in the predict CAPI.

study. Some risk-assessment measures that require extensive care resources or specialized equipment may be difficult to implement in community and home settings.³¹ In contrast, the CCI is a simple observational indicator for community workers and family caregivers to provide reference for the prevention of PI. Based on comorbidity and weight of CCI, comorbidity weights were added together, the risk of CAPI should be vigilant when the score reached 5 points or above.

There are several limitations to this study. Firstly, CAPI was defined as having occurred before admission, but the CCI data were extracted after admission. The diagnosis in the CCI is based on chronic conditions that may have been present prior to admission. Therefore, CCI calculations excluded acute comorbidities that were first diagnosed. However, the possibility of inadequately controlled confounding cannot be excluded. In addition, the definition of comorbidity was based on the ICD-10, and the accuracy of this will affect the CCI score. However, in February 2020, China incorporated improving the accuracy of the inpatient diagnosis code into the national medical quality and safety goals and attached great importance to the accuracy of the code. Nevertheless, coding errors may not be completely avoidable. Finally, this study was a single-center sample, therefore, It may affect the generality of research results.

Conclusion

This study found that higher numbers of comorbidities and their greater severity increased the risk of developing CAPI. As such, immobile elderly with multiple comorbidities should be vigilant against developing CAPI. The results show that the CCI has a certain reference value in predicting CAPI for community workers and family caregivers. The influence of different comorbidity combinations on PI is worth further investigation.

Data Sharing Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in “ResMan” at (<http://www.medresman.org.cn/uploads/attachment/share/data/96e71142-f724-4e7a-881f-3ebf8ace08d9.xls>).

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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