

IS DIABETES A PREDICTOR OF NURSING HOME ADMISSION IN THE ELDERLY?

Factors explaining the association

Beatriz Rodríguez-Sánchez¹ and Bernard van den Berg¹

¹ Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance; Faculty of Economics and Business
University of Groningen, The Netherlands



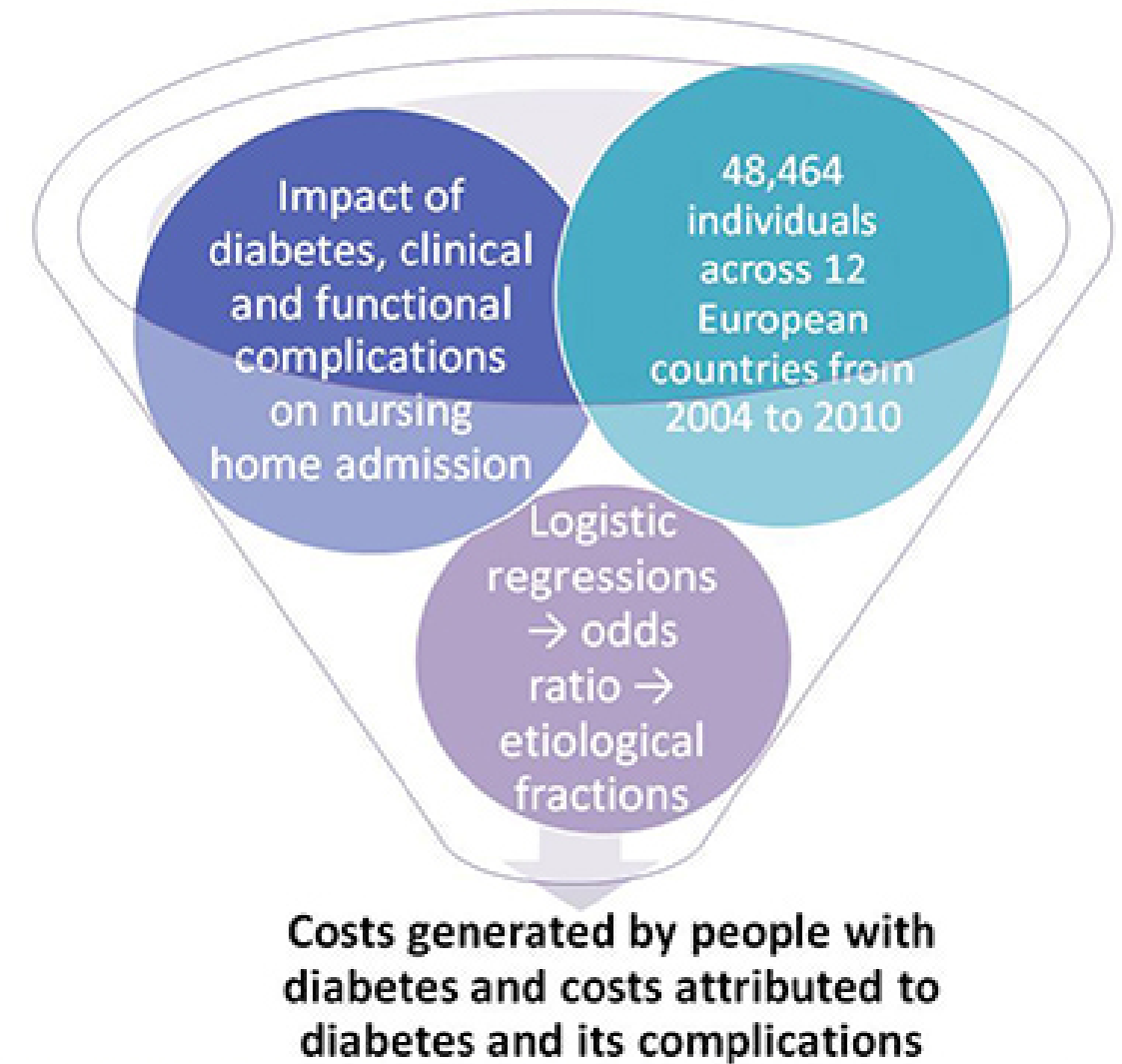
INTRODUCTION

Around 30-35% of institutionalized older people have diabetes, a condition associated to higher resource utilization and costs. Factors explaining this association are barely known in older adults. Usual clinical complications associated with diabetes explain around 35-40% of the total costs. Other components usually neglected, like functional impairment, can explain other part of the costs.

AIMS

To evaluate the role of different components in the use of nursing home by old people with diabetes and their associated costs across some European countries.

METHODS



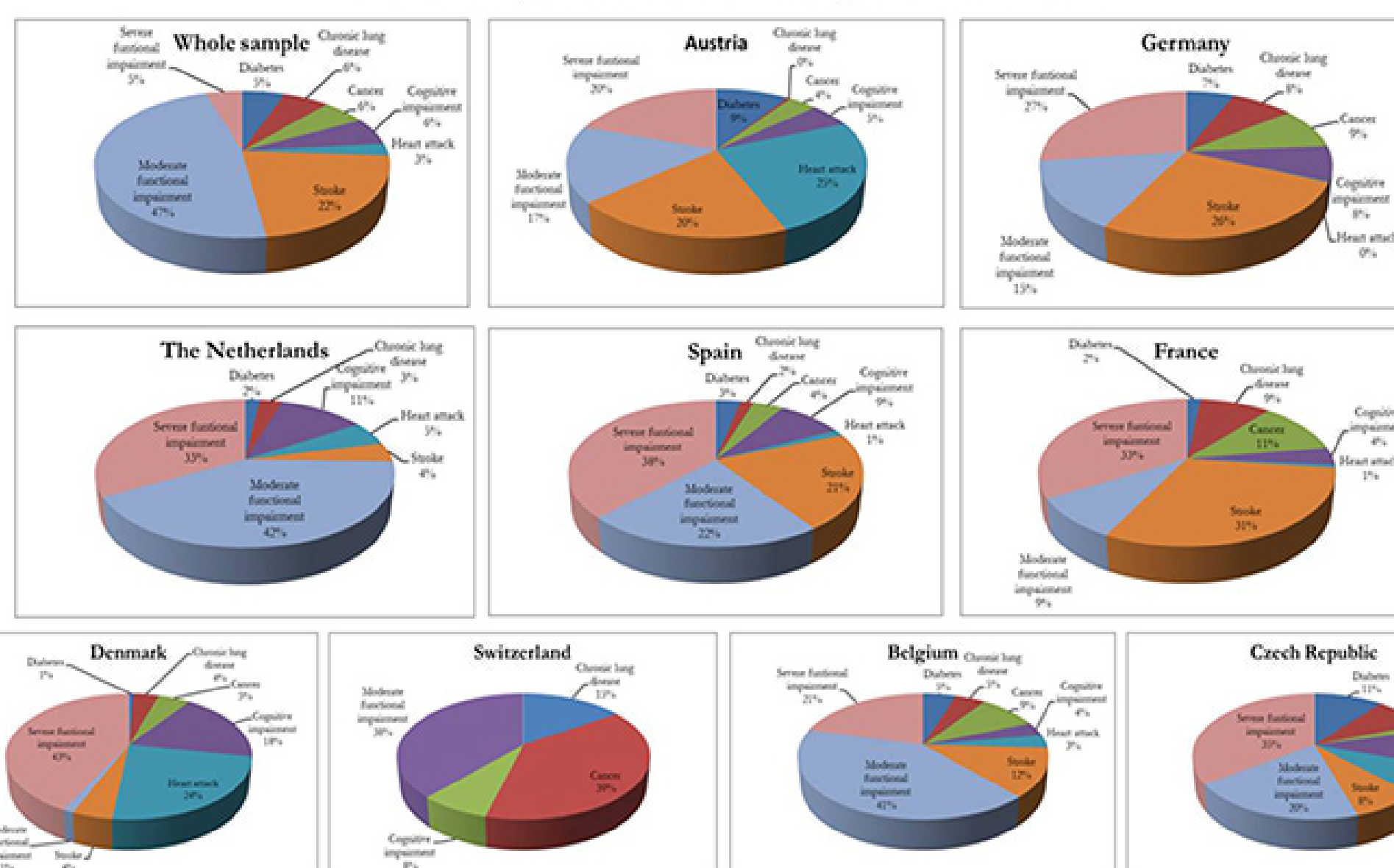
RESULTS

Results regarding diabetes and its clinical and functional complications as determinants of nursing home admission

Diabetes is a good predictor of nursing home placement in the baseline model. However, when adjusting for clinical and functional complications, diabetes is no longer significant. Furthermore, the only interaction term that is significant is the one referring to diabetes and full functional impairment. Hence, it could be concluded that the effect of diabetes is mediated by the clinical and functional complications.

- Moreover, the relationship between functional status and admission in nursing home is age-dependent, as it is clearly shown in people older than 65, but not so evident in people with ages ranging from 50 to 65.
- Finally, only in Spain diabetes remains as a significant factor of nursing home placement, even when complications are part of the regression.

Graph 1: Components of attributable costs to diabetes and its complications across sample and countries



Graph 1 shows the main drivers of nursing costs attributed to diabetes and its clinical and functional complications. .

The substantial character of functional status is confirmed across countries, since in most of the countries functional status bares the greatest proportion of costs, usually followed by stroke.

CONCLUSIONS

Functional impairment explains the major part of the association between diabetes and nursing home admission and the increasing costs in older adults. Assessment of functional impairment and its management in people with diabetes might be necessary in order to reduce the costs.