

## **Race/Ethnic Differences in the Prevalence of Incontinence, Perineal Dermatitis and Pressure Ulcers in Nursing Home Residents.**

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Incontinence is a major risk for perineal dermatitis (PD) and pressure ulcers (PUs), and all three problems are common and costly in nursing home (NH) residents. We previously determined that Hispanic ethnicity was a significant risk for the time to development of PD in NH residents prompting this investigation into whether there was a focal relationship between race/ethnicity and prevalence of incontinence (fecal (FI), urinary (UI), or double incontinence (FI+UI)), PD and PUs. We analyzed a cross-section of 1999 Minimum Data Set (MDS) records (n=59,558) and linked practitioner orders (n=2,883,049) of elders (aged 65+) in 555 NHs located in 31 states. The NH residents were 70% female, age mean(SD)=83(8) yrs. More Black (52%), Asian, (50%), and Hispanic (48%) residents had FI+UI than White (38%) or American Indian residents (34% p<.001). Controlling for all 3 types of incontinence in a logistic regression model, Hispanics (OR=1.4(1.1,1.7) and Asians (2.04(1.6,2.6)) were more likely to have PD; Blacks were less likely to have PD (.55(.48,.63) but more likely to have PUs (1.8(1.6,2.1)). In a second model, a comprehensive set of risks for PD and PU available on the MDS were added using a hierarchical logistic regression analysis; the racial/ethnic differences remained as described in the initial model and were significant. Findings suggest there may be racial/ethnic disparities in incontinence and skin care in NH residents. Further analyses investigating the racial/ethnic differences in incontinence, PD and PU prevalence are warranted. PD, characterized by skin redness, may be less recognizable than PU wounds in Blacks.