

Additional file 1

Comparison of variables in The Tromsø 5 Study 2001-01 and the KORA-Age Study 2009.

The Tromsø 5 Study 2001-02

History of falls

"Did you ever fall last year?" ("No"=0, "Yes"=1, "I do not know"=missing)

Hemoglobin (g/dL)

Anemia (WHO criteria: Women <12 g/dL=1, Men<13 g/dL=1)

Age (years, age group 65-74 year and 75+ years)

Sex

Frailty (modified Fried's criteria) ≥ 1 of the following:

Grip strength (Martins vigorimeter, $\leq 20\%$ weakest)

Timed Up and Go Test (≥ 15 seconds=1)

Physical activity level (self-reported)

"How has your physical activity in leisure time been during this last year? Think of your weekly average for the year" (hours per week).

Light physical activity (not sweating or out of breath).

("None"=0, "Less than 1"=1, "1-2"=1

"3 or more"=1)

Hard physical activity (sweating/out of breath).

("None"=0, "Less than 1"=1, "1-2"=1

"3 or more"=1)

Exhaustion (single item, the Hospital Symptom Checklist-10)

Have you experienced any of the following the last week: "That everything is a struggle?"

("No complaint" or "Little complaint" =0, "Pretty much", "Very much"=1)

Disability (self-reported)

Due to chronic health problems;

"Is it difficult to move around in your home?"

"Is it difficult to get out of your home by yourself?"

"Is it difficult to participate in organizations or other leisure time activities?"

"Is it difficult to use public transport?"

"Is it difficult to perform daily shopping?"

("No difficulties"=0, "Some difficulties"=1, "Great difficulties"=1)

Comorbidity (modified Charlson Comorbidity Index, i.e. number of diseases without weighting, self-reported)

≥ 3 of the following diseases=1:

asthma/emphysema/chronic bronchitis, cancer (ever), diabetes, stroke, heart attack/angina pectoris, peptic ulcer

Hypertension (blood pressure >140/90 mmHg)

Number of drug used on a regular basis (self-reported)

The KORA-Age Study 2009

History of falls

"Did you fall in the previous year?" ("No"=0, "Yes once"=1, "Yes more than once"=1)

Hemoglobin (g/dL)

Anemia (WHO criteria: Women <12 g/dL=1, Men<13 g/dL=1)

Age (years, age group 65-74 year and 75+ years)

Sex

Frailty (modified Fried's criteria) ≥ 1 of the following:

Weight loss last 6 months (short German SCREEN II Questionnaire)

Grip strength low (JAMAR dynamometer, cut-off not reported)

Timed Up and Go Test low (cut-off not reported)

Physical activity level low (Physical Activity Scale for the Elderly, cut-off not reported)

Fatigue (self-reported, questionnaire/phrasing cut-off not reported)

Disability (Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability index)

Dressing, Rising, Eating, Walking, Hygiene, Reach, Grip, Usual activities (cut-off not reported)

Comorbidity (modified Charlson Comorbidity Index, i.e number of diseases, self-reported)

≥ 3 of the following diseases =1:

asthma/emphysema/chronic bronchitis, cancer (past 3 years), diabetes, stroke, heart trouble, digestive problems, arthritis/rheumatism, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, liver problems

Hypertension (cut-off not reported)

Numbers of prescribed drugs used last 7 days (self- reporte

