Intensive BP control has no impact on mobility in elderly

NEW YORK, Feb 13, (Agencies) In adequately powered studies, targeting a systolic blood pressure <120 mm Hg (vs <140 mm Hg) was not associated with changes in gait speed or mobility limitation in the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT). However, the researchers say, the trial’s sample size may appear to have an important effect on estimates of gait speed decline among older adults.

Dr Nicholas Pajewski of Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and colleagues note in their JAMA Internal Medicine report, online Feb 6, that although the SPRINT trial had a sample size of <120 mm Hg has benefits on cardiovascular mortality do not appear to affect downstream gait speed decline among older adults, “modest evidence” of a differential effect on physical quality of life, such that intensive BP lowering appeared to be associated with a slower rate of decline in gait speed in those with better physical QOL, whereas among those with worse physical QOL, intensive BP lowering appeared to be associated with a faster decline in gait speed.

The researchers note that SPRINT was interpreted with caution because the effect size was modest and did not reach statistical significance in either group, “the researchers say. Summing up, they say, SPRINT is, to our knowledge, the first large-scale randomized clinical trial of BP control to report results concerning gait speed as an outcome. The benefits of intensive BP lowering on cardiovascular mortality do not appear to affect downstream gait speed decline among older adults, the researchers say. The researchers note that SPRINT was interpreted with caution because the effect size was modest and did not reach statistical significance in either group, “the researchers say. Summing up, they say, SPRINT is, to our knowledge, the first large-scale randomized clinical trial of BP control to report results concerning gait speed as an outcome. The benefits of intensive BP lowering on cardiovascular mortality do not appear to affect downstream gait speed decline among older adults, “modest evidence” of a differential effect on physical quality of life, such that intensive BP lowering appeared to be associated with a slower rate of decline in gait speed in those with better physical QOL, whereas among those with worse physical QOL, intensive BP lowering appeared to be associated with a faster decline in gait speed.

TAIPEI: Taiwan’s health ministry on Tuesday reported a fresh strain of bird flu in the eastern coastal county of Chiayi, where a 65-year-old Taiwanese man, who was diagnosed with the H5N6 strain of avian influenza, has died.

The highly pathogenic H5N6 strain of avian influenza has been confirmed in three cities and counties, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection, said. “We are very concerned with H5N6, not just its transmission, but also its effect on livestock. The impact of H5N6 on poultry and meat mainly from the United States.

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