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1 **Title Page**

The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry

2

Number of Words: 3528/3500

3

4 **A six-year prospective study of the prognosis and predictors in patients with late-life**
5 **depression.**

6

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26 **Highlights**

- 27 • The long-term prognosis of late-life depression is poor in terms of mortality and
28 course.
- 29 • Depression in later life is a chronic and disabling disorder, in which treatment is
30 probably still suboptimal.
- 31 • An unfavorable course is associated with a younger age of onset of depression,
32 higher baseline depression, chronic pain, neuroticism and loneliness.
- 33 • Patients with a partial remission might benefit from interventions targeting
34 chronic diseases and loneliness.
- 35 • Considering the poor prognosis and high dropout among depressed older
36 patients in this study, much could be gained by improving prevention and
37 treatment strategies.

38

39 **Abstract** (Words: 234/250)

40 **Objectives:** To examine the six-year prognosis of patients with late-life depression and to
41 identify prognostic factors of an unfavorable course.

42 **Design and setting:** The Netherlands Study of Depression in Older persons (NESDO) is a
43 multi-site naturalistic prospective cohort study with six-year follow-up.

44 **Participants:** 378 clinically depressed patients according to DSM-IV-TR criteria and 132 non-
45 depressed comparisons were included at baseline between 2007-2010.

46 **Measurements:** Depression was measured by the Inventory of Depressive Symptoms at six-
47 month intervals and a diagnostic interview at two-year and six-year follow-up. Multinomial
48 regression and mixed model analyses were both used to identify depression-related clinical,
49 health and psychosocial prognostic factors of an unfavorable course.

50 **Results:** Among depressed patients at baseline, 46.8% were loss to follow-up, 15.9% had an
51 unfavorable course, i.e. chronic or recurrent, 24.6% had partial remission, and 12.7% had full
52 remission, at six-year follow-up. The relative risk (RR) of mortality in depressed patients was
53 2.5 (95%-CI:1.26-4.81) when compared with non-depressed comparisons. An unfavorable
54 course of depression was associated with a younger age of depression onset, higher
55 symptom severity of depression, pain, neuroticism, and loneliness at baseline. Additionally,
56 partial remission was associated with chronic diseases, and loneliness at baseline when
57 compared with full remission.

58 **Conclusions:** The long-term prognosis of late-life depression is poor with regard to mortality
59 and course of depression. Chronic diseases, loneliness, and pain may be used as putative
60 targets for optimizing prevention and treatment strategies of relapse and chronicity.

61
62 **Key words:** Depression; Old Age; Risk Factors; Prognosis; Outcome.

63 **Introduction (Words: 558)**

64 Late-life depression is a complex and heterogeneous disorder, often accompanied by an
65 unfavorable prognosis.¹ It has been associated with a chronic course,² a higher risk of
66 subsequent development of cognitive impairment or dementia,³ and premature death.⁴
67 Although late-life depression can be treated effectively, relapse and recurrence as well as
68 chronicity are a major problem in daily practice. Studies on the long-term prognosis of late-
69 life depression are required to inform clinicians and to identify prognostic factors that may
70 contribute to the improvement of treatment strategies and relapse prevention.

71 An unfavorable prognosis of late-life depression has been demonstrated in both
72 community samples,⁵⁻⁸ and clinical samples.⁹⁻¹⁴ Beekman et al. (2002) studied the six-year
73 course of community-dwelling older adults with late-life depression, using both diagnostic

74 interviews and self-reports, and found that 32% had a severe chronic course and 44% an
75 unfavorable but fluctuating course, whereas only 23% showed remission.⁶ In our previous
76 two-year follow-up study of the Netherlands Study of Depression in Older persons (NESDO),
77 we found that nearly 50% of the clinically depressed patients still had a depression
78 diagnosis, and 61% had a chronic course of depressive symptoms.¹³ It is known that
79 depression in older adults is more likely to have a chronic or chronic-relapsing course
80 compared to younger adults.^{2,15} Since meta-analyses of treatment studies have
81 demonstrated equal efficacy of antidepressants among all ages,¹⁶ suboptimal maintenance
82 treatment may be an explanation for the less favorable prognosis in older adults. Also, some
83 specific depressive syndromes occur more often in later life, such as the depression-
84 executive dysfunction syndrome with apathy,¹⁷ which has particularly been linked to a poor
85 outcome.^{18,19}

86 Currently, there has been an increasing interest to identify distinct long-term
87 trajectories of depressive symptoms using latent class analyses. Hybels et al. (2016)
88 identified four trajectory classes in a clinical sample of depressed older adults after three-
89 years of follow-up, including a quick recovery class (43%), a persistent moderate symptom
90 class (27%), a persistent high symptom class (15%), and a slow recovery class (15%).¹² Higher
91 perceived stress and lower social support were associated with the persistent high symptom
92 class.¹² These trajectories have proved to be useful in obtaining a better insight in the course
93 of late-life depression, for example, by distinguishing a fast recovery class from a slow
94 recovery class.^{12,20} However, its use for clinicians may be limited, for they rely on a
95 depression diagnosis for the management of depression, not on depressive symptoms only.

96 Multiple factors from different domains of functioning contribute to the onset and
97 prognosis of depression.²¹ For clinical purpose, prognostic factors may be assigned to a

98 depression-related clinical domain, a health and lifestyle domain, and a psychosocial
99 domain. Several factors from these domains have been associated with an unfavorable
100 course of depression, including comorbid anxiety,²² sleep problems,²³ chronic diseases,^{13,15}
101 functional limitations,²⁴ pain,²⁵ loneliness,²⁶ lack of social support,¹² childhood trauma,²⁷ and
102 neuroticism.²⁸ Whether these factors are also associated with the prognosis of depression
103 on the long-term remains to be explored.

104 The aim of the present study was twofold. First, the long-term prognosis of late-life
105 depression was examined, in terms of both main reasons for attrition and course types, in
106 clinically depressed patients over six-years. Second, prognostic factors of long-term course
107 types were identified. We hypothesized that the long-term prognosis of late-life depression
108 is poor, with a high mortality rate and an unfavorable course, including recurrence and
109 chronicity, in most patients.

110 **Methods (Words: 1284)**

111 Study Design

112 The Netherlands Study of Depression in Older persons (NESDO) is a multi-site prospective
113 cohort study designed to examine the course and consequences of depressive disorders in
114 older adults (≥ 60 years). Sampling procedures have been previously described in detail.²⁹ In
115 short, data collection of the baseline measurement took place between 2007 and 2010.
116 Depressed patients were recruited in five regions in the Netherlands from both mental
117 health care facilities and general practitioners. Non-depressed comparisons were recruited
118 from general practitioners and were included if they had no lifetime diagnosis of depression.
119 Participants were excluded when they had a dementia diagnosis, or were suspected for
120 dementia based on clinician's judgment. Follow-up assessments by means of a face-to-face
121 interview were performed two-years,¹³ and six-years after baseline using the same
122 measurement instruments as at baseline. Additionally, postal assessments were performed
123 every six-months, including a questionnaire on self-reported depressive symptoms. Well-
124 trained research assistants conducted the interviews. All interviews were audio taped and
125 quality controlled. The research coordinator regularly evaluated interviews on the basis of
126 their audiotapes. Question wording and probing behavior of interviewers were regularly
127 monitored by checking a random selection of each interviewer. Written informed consent
128 was obtained from all participants. NESDO' study protocol has been approved centrally by
129 the Ethical Review Board of the VU University Medical Center, and subsequently by the
130 ethical review boards of the Leiden University Medical Center, University Medical Center
131 Groningen, and the Radboud university medical center Nijmegen.

132

133

134 Sample

135 At baseline, NESDO included 378 depressed patients, having major depressive disorder
136 (n=265), dysthymia (n=6), double depression (n=94) (major depression and dysthymia) or
137 minor depression (n=13) according to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
138 (DSM-IV-TR criteria),³⁰ and 132 non-depressed comparisons, aged ≥ 60 years.¹³ Depressed
139 patients did not differ from non-depressed comparisons with respect to mean age and sex,
140 but depressed patients had less education, were more often divorced or widowed, and had
141 lower cognitive functioning. From the 510 respondents at baseline, 401 were retained in the
142 two-year follow-up assessment with an overall attrition rate of 21.4%.¹³

143

144 Measurements

145 Depression

146 The DSM-IV-TR-diagnosis of major depression, dysthymia and minor depression was
147 assessed with the Composite Interview Diagnostic Instrument (CIDI, WHO, version 2.1) at
148 two- and six-year of follow-up.³⁰ Severity of depressive symptoms was measured by a postal
149 assessment every six months as a continuous variable with the Inventory of Depressive
150 Symptoms (IDS),³¹ which is a 30-item self-report scale that was developed to assess all core
151 criterion diagnostic depressive symptoms. The IDS scores range between 0 and 84 with
152 higher scores indicating more severe depression. An IDS score < 14 was defined as no
153 depression.³² The scale has acceptable psychometric properties in depressed outpatients,³¹
154 and depressed inpatients.³² Cronbach's alpha for the IDS in our sample was 0.83.

155

156

157

158 Course types

159 The course types were categorized according to the two-year and six-year measurement
160 into: a) full remission, b) partial remission, c) recurrent, and d) chronic, using both the
161 symptom severity level (according to the IDS) and diagnosis of depression (according to the
162 DSM-IV-TR). Full remission was defined as the absence of a depression diagnosis at six-year
163 follow-up, combined with an IDS score < 14 at six-year follow-up (at measurement cycles 12
164 and 13, thereby covering six months). Partial remission was defined as the absence of a
165 depression diagnosis at six-year follow-up, but with an IDS score ≥ 14 at six-year follow-up
166 (at measurement cycle 12 and 13). Absence of a depression diagnosis at two-year, but
167 presence of a diagnosis at six-year was labeled as 'recurrent'. Presence of a depression
168 diagnosis both at two- and six-year follow-up was labeled as 'chronic'. The last two
169 categories (recurrent and chronic) were based on diagnosis of depression according to the
170 CIDI only.

171

172 Prognostic factors

173 *Demographics* were assessed using standard questions and included sex, age, and
174 educational level (years). The following *depression-related clinical factors* were included:
175 previous episode of depression, age of onset of depression and comorbid anxiety diagnosis
176 (y/n) were assessed by the CIDI, severity of depressive symptoms was assessed by the IDS,³¹
177 severity of anxiety symptoms was assessed by the Beck Anxiety Index (BAI),³³ global
178 cognitive functioning was assessed by the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE),³⁴ apathy
179 was assessed by the Apathy Scale (AS),³⁵ sleep problems was assessed by the Women's
180 Health Initiative Insomnia Rating Scale (WHIIRS),³⁶ use of antidepressants and frequent use
181 of benzodiazepines were assessed by inspection of the medication. The following health and

182 *lifestyle factors* were included: chronic physical diseases were self-reported and assessed by
183 the LASA Questionnaire (LAPAQ),³⁷ functional limitations were assessed by the WHO-
184 Disability Assessment Scale II (WHODAS 2.0),³⁸ metabolic syndrome was assessed by the
185 original ATP-III criteria,³⁹ chronic pain was assessed by the Chronic Graded Pain Scale
186 (CPGS),⁴⁰ body-mass-index was measured by weight (kg)/squared height (m²), physical
187 activity was assessed by the International Physical Activities Questionnaire (IPAQ) and
188 dichotomized (low versus moderate/high),⁴¹ smoking was assessed by asking current
189 smoking behavior (y/n), and alcohol use was assessed by Alcohol Use Disorders
190 Identification (AUDIT).⁴² The following *psychosocial factors* were included: neuroticism was
191 assessed by the NEO-Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI),⁴³ childhood trauma was assessed by
192 the Netherlands Mental Health Survey and Incidence Study (NEMESIS) Questionnaire,⁴⁴
193 partner status (y/n) was asked, loneliness was assessed by the Rasch-Type Loneliness Scale
194 (RTLIS),⁴⁵ social support was assessed by the Close Person Inventory and dichotomized (poor:
195 < 2 confidants versus good: ≥ 2 confidants),⁴⁶ and recent life events were assessed by the
196 Brugha Questionnaire.⁴⁷

197

198 **Statistical Analyses**

199 First, descriptive analyses were used to describe attrition and its determinants in the patient
200 group (eTable 1). For both the patient group and non-depressed comparison group, attrition
201 rates were calculated by dividing the proportion of respondents that were loss to follow-up
202 with the total number of respondents at baseline. Subsequently, bivariate and multivariate
203 logistic regression analyses were used to identify determinants of attrition (eTable 2).
204 Second, study sample characteristics were described according to the 'course of late-life

205 depression', in which the groups 'recurrent' and 'chronic' were combined to ensure equal
206 group sizes for the purpose of subsequent statistical analyses (Table 1).

207 A correlation matrix was derived for the independent variables to rule out
208 multicollinearity. A Pearson correlation cutoff of 0.70 was used to determine whether
209 substantial correlation was present, and whether variables had to be left out of subsequent
210 analysis. No correlation > 0.70 was found between all the independent variables. The highest
211 correlations observed were between BAI and neuroticism (0.52), BAI and WHODAS 2.0
212 (0.45). Also, the correlations between the independent variables at baseline and the
213 dependent variable IDS at baseline, and at two-year and six-year follow-up, were retrieved.
214 At baseline, none of the variables was correlated with IDS at > 0.70 . The highest correlations
215 observed were between IDS and WHODAS 2.0 (0.69), IDS and BAI (0.56), and IDS and
216 neuroticism (0.54).

217 Bivariate multinomial regression analyses were performed to investigate the
218 association between each prognostic factor and 'course of late-life depression', using 'full
219 remission' as reference group (Table 2). An additional analysis was performed using 'partial
220 remission' as reference group for the comparison with a chronic/recurrent (unfavorable)
221 course. To overcome the study's statistical power problem, multivariate analyses were
222 performed using Linear Mixed Models with the longitudinally measured 'symptom severity
223 of depression' (IDS) as dependent variable (Table 3). First, group wise multivariate analyses
224 were conducted for each of the three separate domains. Subsequently, the final multivariate
225 model contained all prognostic factors that were associated with IDS at $p < .05$ from the
226 group wise multivariate analyses. The goodness of fit for all multivariate models was
227 evaluated with the -2 Log Likelihood (-2LL) method by comparing the fitted fixed-effects
228 models to the model with no predictors (null model). We evaluated changes in the -2LL

229 between the null model and each fitted fixed-effects model. Analyses were performed using
230 IBM SPSS 22.0.

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231 **Results (Words: 550)**

232 Attrition of NESDO

233 Figure 1 contains the flowchart of NESDO. From the 510 respondents at baseline, 299
234 participated in the six-year follow-up assessment with an overall attrition rate of 41.4%. The
235 attrition rate between two- and six-year follow-up was 25.4%. The attrition rates for the
236 patient and comparison group differed at 46.8% and 25.8%, respectively. The most
237 important reasons for attrition in the patient group were mortality (16.4%) and mental
238 reasons (15.1%), mainly cognitive impairment, whereas the most important reason for
239 attrition in the non-depressed comparison group was refusal (9.1%). A total of seventy
240 participants (13.7%) died during six-year follow-up, including sixty-two depressed patients
241 and eight non-depressed comparisons. The relative risk of mortality among depressed
242 patients was 2.47 time (95% CI: 1.26-4.81) higher when compared with non-depressed
243 comparisons, $\chi^2(1) = 8.84, p=.003$.

244 Among depressed patients, attrition was the same for men and women, $\chi^2(1) = 0.78$,
245 $p=.38$ (eTable 1). In bivariate analyses (eTable 2), determinants of attrition in the patient
246 group were higher age (OR: 1.08, 95%-CI: 1.05-1.11), less education (OR: 0.93, 95%-CI: 0.87-
247 0.98), a higher age of onset of depression (OR: 1.01, 95%-CI: 1.00-1.02), worse cognitive
248 functioning (OR: 0.79, 95%-CI: 0.71-0.88), and less physical activity (OR: 2.01, 95%-CI: 1.28-
249 3.15). In multivariate analyses, age (OR: 1.06, 95%-CI: 1.03-1.09) and global cognitive
250 functioning (OR: 0.83, 95%-CI: 0.75-0.95) remained significantly associated with attrition in
251 the patient group.

252

253

254

255 Prognosis of late-life depression

256 Among the total of 378 depressed patients at baseline, 177 (46.8%) were loss to follow-up,
257 60 (15.9%) had a recurrent or chronic depression, 93 (24.6%) had a partial remission and
258 only 48 (12.7%) had a full remission at six-year follow-up. Of those with a full remission at six
259 years, 43.8% reached this after two years.

260 Table 1 shows the characteristics from 201 clinically depressed patients who were
261 able to participate in the study over the full six years according to their course type. This
262 sample consisted of 137 (68.2%) women, and the mean age of the sample was 69.0 (SD: 6.5)
263 years. Sixty (29.9%) depressed patients had an unfavorable course type (8.0% recurrent,
264 21.9% chronic), 93 (46.3%) had a partial remission, and 48 (23.9%) had a full remission. The
265 symptom severity levels of depression (IDS) at six-month intervals according to the prognosis
266 of depressed patients after six-year follow-up is shown in Figure 2.

267

268 Prognostic factors

269 In Table 2, results from bivariate analyses demonstrate that the depression-related clinical
270 factors: younger age of onset of depression, higher severity of depression, higher severity of
271 anxiety, and more apathy; the health and lifestyle factors: chronic diseases, functional
272 limitations, and chronic pain; and the psychosocial factors: neuroticism and loneliness were
273 all associated with an unfavorable course type as compared to full remission. As compared
274 to full remission, partial remission was only associated with chronic diseases and loneliness,
275 and not with any of the depression-related clinical factors. As compared to partial remission,
276 an unfavorable course type was associated with a younger age of onset of depression,
277 higher severity of depression, a comorbid anxiety disorder, higher severity of anxiety, use of

278 antidepressants, functional limitations, less physical activity, less alcohol use, and
279 neuroticism.

280 From multivariate longitudinal analyses (Table 3), a younger age of onset of
281 depression, higher severity of depression, chronic pain, neuroticism, and loneliness at
282 baseline were significantly associated with higher levels of depression over the six-year
283 follow-up.

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284 **Discussion (Words: 1124)**

285 The most important conclusion to be drawn from this study among depressed older patients
286 is that the long-term prognosis for this group is poor in terms of mortality and course of
287 depression. Attrition in the patient group was almost twice as high as in the comparison
288 group. During six-years of follow-up, nearly 47% of the depressed patients were loss to
289 follow-up, mainly due to mortality (relative risk of 2.5 versus non-depressed comparisons)
290 and cognitive impairment. Sixteen percent had an unfavorable course type, i.e. chronic or
291 recurrent, 25% had a partial remission, and only 13% had a full remission. Nonetheless,
292 almost half of those reaching full remission at six-year follow-up still had clinically relevant
293 depression at two-year follow-up, which is an important finding and should encourage
294 clinicians to prolong and optimize treatment in depressed older patients, even after two
295 years.

296 We also demonstrated that results were biased in the direction of a more favorable
297 prognosis if attrition was excluded as outcome, as this may lead to a selection of the more
298 healthy and motivated patients (30% would have had an unfavorable course, 46% partial
299 remission and 24% full remission). Furthermore, strict criteria were used to define full
300 remission, as a result of which the proportion of patients with a full remission may be
301 underestimated. The rationale for this decision was based on the previous finding that
302 residual symptoms have been associated with a poor outcome,^{48,49} indicating that the goal
303 must be to keep the patient as symptom-free as possible.⁴⁸

304 In a longitudinal study of 127 depressed older patients in the community, it was
305 shown that at three years, 30% had died, 35% had a chronic or recurrent depression, 25%
306 had another mental illness, and only 10% had maintained a full remission.⁵ Stek et al. (2002)
307 examined the long-term prognosis of major depression in hospitalized older patients six to

308 eight year after clinical treatment and found that 40% had died, while among the survivors
309 33% had no residual symptoms or relapses,¹¹ which approximately corresponds to our
310 finding that among survivors 24% reached full remission. These numbers from both
311 community and clinical studies are in line with our results and strongly indicate that
312 depression in later life is a disabling chronic disorder with a poor outcome.

313 Depression is a complex multifactorial disease, implicating that multiple factors from
314 different domains of functioning contribute to its onset and prognosis.²¹ This study found
315 that an unfavorable course of depression was associated with a younger age of onset of
316 depression, a higher severity of depression, chronic pain, neuroticism, and loneliness, which
317 is in accordance with current literature.^{4,26,28,50,51} Furthermore, partial remission could not
318 be distinguished from full remission using depression-related clinical factors, but was more
319 likely associated with chronic diseases and loneliness. This finding could imply that these
320 factors are important targets for interventions to prevent relapse, as partial remission is a
321 strong predictor of relapse and chronicity.⁵² Our findings do not point to single factors that
322 may be important for the prognosis of depression, but rather point to multiple factors from
323 different domains of functioning that all are important, with each factor having a small but
324 significant contribution.

325 Recently, Brown et al. (2017) found that biological age was more important than
326 chronological age in predicting the incidence and course of depressive symptoms over long-
327 term follow-up.⁵³ The authors stated that their findings support the evolving biological view
328 of late-life depression as resulting from deleterious age-associated changes.^{53,54} Our study
329 suggests however that a more holistic view allowing identification of non-biological factors
330 as well, is appropriate in targeting older adults at risk for an unfavorable prognosis and thus
331 for prevention and treatment interventions.^{21,50}

332 Our study has some limitations. First, because of a lack of power, multivariate
333 analyses were not performed on course types, making it difficult to clarify the strongest
334 prognostic factors of an unfavorable course type. On the other hand, we did perform
335 multivariate analyses using mixed models with the IDS as assessed every six months, which
336 allowed a more accurate assessment of prognostic factors. Second, there might be a great
337 chance of a Type I error due to multiple statistical comparisons. However, on a theoretical
338 basis, we included multiple factors from biopsychosocial domains of functioning that have
339 been previously associated with a poor outcome of late-life depression in studies to date,
340 thereby minimizing the risk of Type I error (or chance). Also, most of the variables that
341 remained statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) in the final multivariate model, had a stronger
342 association with the outcome in the preceding groupwise models at $p \leq 0.01$ (except for 'age
343 of onset'). Furthermore, predictors that were associated with a poor outcome from
344 multinomial regression analyses, are more or less the same predictors that were associated
345 with a poor outcome from mixed model analyses, which should affirm the validity of our
346 findings. Moreover, the factors uncovered in this study are in line with previous research,
347 from which we think that our results are solid and accurate. Third, although the strength of
348 NESDO is that the results generalize to clinical practice, they are not generalizable to the
349 community. Moreover, in the Netherlands general practitioners provide primary care for
350 depression. Depressed patients who do not recover are subsequently referred to specialist
351 mental health care. This situation may have induced some selection bias in our sample, with
352 relatively many patients with a treatment-resistant depression. Finally, by using depression
353 diagnosis at two measurement points over six years, information was lacking on short-term
354 relapses and recurrences in between these measurements. Since recurrence and chronicity
355 are both unfavorable outcomes, this limitation was tackled by combining both groups. For

356 future research, a latent class analysis on the IDS data would provide more detailed
357 information about detailed trajectories of depression.

358 Despite of the limitations, the study has numerous strengths. The prognosis of late-
359 life depression was captured based on the depression diagnosis according to DSM-criteria in
360 combination with the IDS at separate measurement points over six years, which increases
361 the external validity and usability for clinicians. Furthermore, we did not only examine the
362 course, but also attrition among patients with late-life depression, which made it
363 additionally clear that the long-term prognosis of late-life depression is poor.

364 The clinical implication of this study may be that a multidimensional approach
365 targeting the uncovered factors is valuable in improving the prognosis of late-life depression.
366 Depressed patients with a partial remission might benefit further from interventions
367 targeting chronic diseases and loneliness to obtain full recovery. At the same time, the risk
368 of a poor outcome, such as chronicity, cognitive impairment, or death may be inevitable in
369 depressed patients when their depression is more severe, started at a younger age, and if
370 health and psychosocial problems also exist. Careful long-term monitoring of depression
371 among older adults may be key in optimizing maintenance treatment strategies.

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376 *Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data:* All authors

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552 **Figure legends**

553 **Figure 1:** Flowchart of NESDO and long-term prognosis of late-life depression.

554

555 **Figure 2.** Symptom severity levels of depression (IDS) at six-month intervals according to the
556 prognosis of depressed patients after six-year follow-up.

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560 **Table 1. Characteristics of N=201 depressed patients at baseline and according to their course type of late-life depression at follow-up.**

	Baseline	Six-year follow-up, course types		
	Total N=201	Full remission N=48	Partial remission N=93	Recurrent or Chronic N=60
Prognostic factors				
Demographics				
Women, N (%)	137 (68.2)	28 (58.3)	66 (71.0)	43 (71.7)
Age, years, mean (SD)	69.0 (6.5)	68.4 (5.9)	69.5 (6.8)	68.5 (6.5)
Education, years, mean (SD)	10.9 (3.5)	10.8 (3.1)	10.8 (3.4)	11.0 (4.0)
Depression-related clinical factors				
Previous episode depression, yes, N (%)	175 (90.2)	41 (87.2)	80 (90.9)	54 (91.5)
Age of onset of depression, mean (SD)	46.3 (19.7)	48.4 (18.3)	49.1 (18.5)	40.5 (21.4)
Severity depressive symptoms, mean (SD)	29.7 (12.5)	26.0 (13.6)	28.5 (10.2)	34.5 (13.6)
Comorbid anxiety diagnosis, yes, N (%)	79 (39.3)	17 (35.4)	30 (32.3)	32 (53.3)
Severity anxiety symptoms, mean (SD)	16.8 (10.7)	14.3 (10.6)	15.6 (9.2)	20.6 (12.1)
Global Cognitive Functioning, mean (SD)	28.1 (1.6)	28.1 (1.5)	28.3 (1.4)	27.8 (2.0)
Apathy, mean (SD)	16.8 (5.3)	15.3 (5.2)	17.1 (5.4)	17.5 (5.2)
Sleep problems, mean (SD)	10.9 (5.2)	11.0 (5.7)	10.6 (5.1)	11.3 (5.1)
Use of antidepressants, yes, N (%)	145 (72.9)	37 (78.7)	58 (63.0)	50 (83.3)
Frequent use of benzodiazepines, yes, N (%)	73 (36.3)	20 (41.7)	29 (31.2)	24 (36.3)
Health and lifestyle factors				
Chronic diseases, mean (SD)	2.1 (1.5)	1.5 (1.0)	2.1 (1.5)	2.5 (1.8)
Functional Limitations, mean (SD)	25.0 (12.3)	23.5 (11.9)	23.4 (11.2)	28.6 (13.7)
Metabolic syndrome, original ATP III criteria, yes, N (%)	61 (30.3)	11 (22.9)	32 (34.4)	18 (30.0)
Chronic Pain, yes, N (%)	111 (55.5)	23 (47.9)	48 (51.6)	40 (67.8)
Body-Mass-Index, mean (SD)	26.1 (4.3)	25.1 (3.7)	26.3 (4.2)	26.6 (4.8)
Physical activity, low, N (%)	47 (24.1)	13 (28.3)	15 (16.7)	19 (32.2)
Smoking, yes, N (%)	47 (23.4)	10 (20.8)	24 (25.8)	13 (21.7)
Alcohol, AUDIT, median (IQR)	2 (4)	2 (4)	3 (5)	0 (3)
Psychological and social factors				
Neuroticism, mean (SD)	39.1 (6.2)	37.1 (5.9)	38.5 (4.9)	41.7 (7.4)
Childhood Trauma Index, mean (SD)	1.0 (1.2)	0.9 (1.1)	1.0 (1.1)	1.2 (1.3)
Partner, no, N (%)	95 (47.3)	20 (41.7)	48 (51.6)	27 (45.0)

Loneliness, mean (SD)	6.6 (3.5)	4.8 (3.3)	7.0 (3.4)	7.5 (3.3)
Social support, poor, N (%)	96 (48.0)	23 (48.9)	44 (47.3)	29 (48.3)
Recent life events, mean (SD)	1.8 (1.3)	1.6 (1.3)	1.9 (1.4)	1.8 (1.3)

561 SD = standard deviation; IQR = interquartile range; AUDIT = Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test.

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564 **Table 2. Prognostic factors associated with long-term course types of late-life depression from bivariate analyses using multinomial logistic regression.**

Prognostic factors	Partial remission (ref: full remission)				Recurrent or Chronic (ref: full remission)				Recurrent or Chronic (ref: partial remission)			
	OR	95% CI	Wald χ^2	p-value	OR	95% CI	Wald χ^2	p-value	OR	95% CI	Wald χ^2	p-value
Demographics												
Women	1.75	(0.84-3.62)	2.25	.13	1.81	(0.81-4.03)	2.09	.15	1.04	(0.51-2.12)	0.01	.93
Age	1.03	(0.97-1.08)	0.89	.35	1.00	(0.94-1.06)	0.01	.95	0.98	(0.93-1.03)	0.88	.35
Education	1.00	(0.90-1.11)	0.00	.99	1.02	(0.92-1.14)	0.15	.70	1.02	(0.93-1.12)	0.22	.64
Depression-related clinical factors												
Previous episode depression, yes	1.46	(0.48-4.50)	0.44	.51	1.58	(0.45-5.54)	0.51	.47	1.08	(0.34-3.48)	0.02	.90
Age of onset of depression	1.00	(0.98-1.02)	0.04	.84	0.98	(0.96-1.00)	4.11	.043	0.98	(0.96-0.99)	6.59	.010
Severity depressive symptoms	1.02	(0.99-1.05)	1.36	.24	1.06	(1.02-1.10)	11.27	.001	1.04	(1.01-1.07)	8.07	.005
Comorbid anxiety diagnosis, yes	0.87	(0.42-1.81)	0.14	.71	2.08	(0.96-4.54)	3.41	.065	2.40	(1.23-4.68)	6.60	.010
Severity anxiety symptoms	1.01	(0.98-1.05)	0.46	.50	1.06	(1.02-1.10)	7.68	.006	1.04	(1.01-1.08)	6.99	.008
Global Cognitive Functioning	1.08	(0.87-1.34)	0.45	.50	0.90	(0.72-1.13)	0.83	.36	0.84	(0.69-1.02)	3.16	.076
Apathy	1.07	(1.00-1.14)	3.36	.067	1.08	(1.00-1.17)	4.24	.040	1.01	(0.95-1.08)	0.20	.66
Sleep problems	0.99	(0.92-1.06)	0.17	.68	1.01	(0.94-1.09)	0.12	.73	1.03	(0.97-1.10)	0.73	.39
Use of antidepressants, yes	0.46	(0.20-1.04)	3.45	.063	1.35	(0.51-3.58)	0.37	.55	2.93	(1.32-6.52)	6.94	.008
Use of benzodiazepines, yes	0.63	(0.31-1.31)	1.53	.22	0.93	(0.43-2.02)	0.03	.86	1.47	(0.75-2.90)	1.25	.26
Health and lifestyle factors												
Chronic diseases	1.42	(1.08-1.87)	6.15	.013	1.65	(1.23-2.21)	10.99	.001	1.16	(0.94-1.43)	1.95	.16
Functional Limitations	1.00	(0.97-1.03)	0.00	.95	1.04	(1.00-1.07)	4.34	.037	1.04	(1.01-1.07)	6.29	.012
Metabolic syndrome, yes	1.77	(0.80-3.92)	1.95	.16	1.44	(0.60-3.44)	0.68	.41	0.82	(0.41-1.64)	0.32	.57
Chronic Pain, yes	1.16	(0.58-2.33)	0.17	.68	2.29	(1.04-5.03)	4.25	.039	1.97	(0.99-3.90)	3.83	.050
Body-Mass-Index	1.08	(0.98-1.18)	2.57	.11	1.10	(1.00-1.21)	3.50	.061	1.02	(0.95-1.10)	0.23	.63
Physical activity, low	0.51	(0.22-1.19)	2.45	.12	1.21	(0.52-2.80)	0.19	.66	2.38	(1.09-5.17)	4.75	.029
Smoking, yes	1.32	(0.57-3.05)	0.43	.51	1.05	(0.42-2.66)	0.01	.92	0.80	(0.37-1.72)	0.34	.56
Alcohol use	1.05	(0.95-1.16)	0.78	.38	0.89	(0.77-1.03)	2.43	.12	0.85	(0.75-0.97)	5.90	.015
Psychological and social factors												
Neuroticism	1.04	(0.98-1.10)	1.53	.22	1.14	(1.06-1.22)	12.90	<.001	1.09	(1.03-1.16)	8.98	.003
Childhood Trauma Index	1.11	(0.81-1.52)	0.39	.53	1.26	(0.90-1.76)	1.83	.18	1.14	(0.87-1.50)	0.88	.35
Partner, no	0.67	(0.33-1.35)	1.25	.26	0.87	(0.41-1.88)	0.12	.73	1.30	(0.68-2.50)	0.64	.43
Loneliness	1.20	(1.08-1.34)	10.78	.001	1.26	(1.11-1.42)	13.58	<.001	1.05	(0.94-1.16)	0.75	.39
Social support, poor	0.94	(0.46-1.89)	0.03	.86	0.98	(0.46-2.10)	0.00	.95	1.04	(0.54-2.00)	0.02	.90
Recent life events	1.24	(0.95-1.63)	2.45	.12	1.17	(0.88-1.57)	1.13	.29	0.95	(0.74-1.20)	0.21	.65

565 OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval; degrees of freedom for Wald χ^2 statistic = 1.

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Table 3. Prognostic factors associated with higher symptom levels of depression during six years from bivariate and multivariate linear mixed models analyses.

Prognostic factors	Bivariate models			Multivariate models, group wise			Multivariate model, final		
	β (SE)	p-value	df.	β (SE)	p-value	df.	β (SE)	p-value	df.
Demographics									
Women	2.24 (1.60)	.16	198						
Age	-0.03 (0.12)	.79	199						
Education	0.04 (0.22)	.87	199						
a) Depression-related clinical factors				group wise model a					
Previous episode depression, yes	7.70 (2.52)	.003	191	-0.18 (2.19)	.93	165			
Age of onset of depression	-0.16 (0.04)	<.001	193	-0.08 (0.03)	.017	165	-0.06 (0.03)	.040	166
Severity depressive symptoms	0.55 (0.05)	<.001	198	0.40 (0.06)	<.001	167	0.32 (0.07)	<.001	168
Comorbid anxiety diagnosis, yes	3.73 (1.51)	.014	198	0.88 (1.23)	.48	165			
Severity anxiety symptoms	0.51 (0.06)	<.001	189	0.22 (0.07)	.002	168	0.11 (0.07)	.11	170
Global Cognitive Functioning	-0.57 (0.46)	.22	201						
Apathy	0.69 (0.14)	<.001	188	0.30 (0.12)	.011	166	0.15 (0.12)	.20	166
Sleep problems	0.57 (0.14)	<.001	190	-0.09 (0.13)	.48	165			
Use of antidepressants, yes	-0.52 (1.70)	.76	196						
Use of benzodiazepines, yes	-0.25 (1.56)	.87	198						
b) Health and lifestyle factors				group wise model b					
Chronic diseases	2.70 (0.45)	<.001	198	1.43 (0.43)	.001	187	0.68 (0.39)	.084	165
Functional Limitations	0.41 (0.05)	<.001	192	0.25 (0.06)	<.001	187	-0.05 (0.06)	.46	168
Metabolic syndrome, yes	3.92 (1.61)	.015	199	-0.68 (1.52)	.66	188			
Chronic Pain, yes	7.80 (1.39)	<.001	198	4.22 (1.32)	.002	188	2.60 (1.21)	.033	167
Body-Mass-Index	0.81 (0.17)	<.001	201	0.46 (0.17)	.009	189	0.23 (0.14)	.12	167
Physical activity, low	-1.41 (1.79)	.43	193						
Smoking, yes	0.92 (1.77)	.60	198						
Alcohol use	-0.47 (0.21)	.025	196	-0.14 (0.18)	.43	186			
c) Psychological and social factors				group wise model c					
Neuroticism	0.89 (0.11)	<.001	188	0.73 (0.11)	<.001	185	0.24 (0.12)	.043	167
Childhood Trauma Index	1.56 (0.64)	.015	198	0.81 (0.55)	.15	184			
Partner, no	1.15 (1.50)	.44	198						
Loneliness	1.18 (0.21)	<.001	188	0.70 (0.20)	.001	185	0.39 (0.18)	.036	166
Social support, poor	-0.19 (1.50)	.90	197						
Recent life events	0.53 (0.56)	.35	198						

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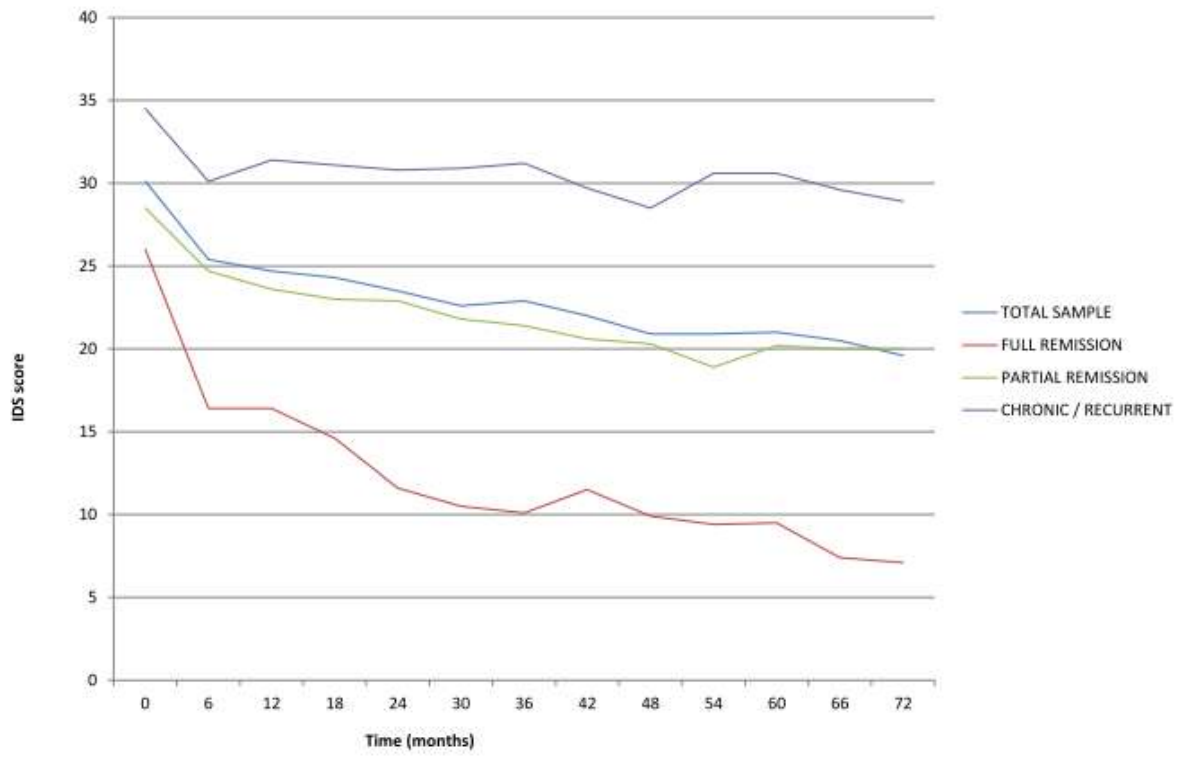
β = regression coefficient; SE = standard error; df. = degrees of freedom, rounded to ones. p-values for the regression coefficients were generated with t-tests.

569 Multivariate group wise analyses contains factors that were associated with $p < 0.05$ in bivariate analyses, for each domain (a-c). The final multivariate model contains all
570 factors that were associated with $p < 0.05$ in the multivariate group wise analyses (a-c). Goodness of fit: model a ($\chi^2(7) = 2370.073$, $p < .001$), model b ($\chi^2(6) = 607.702$,
571 $p < .001$), model c ($\chi^2(3) = 956.429$, $p < .001$), final model ($\chi^2(10) = 2042.444$, $p < .001$).

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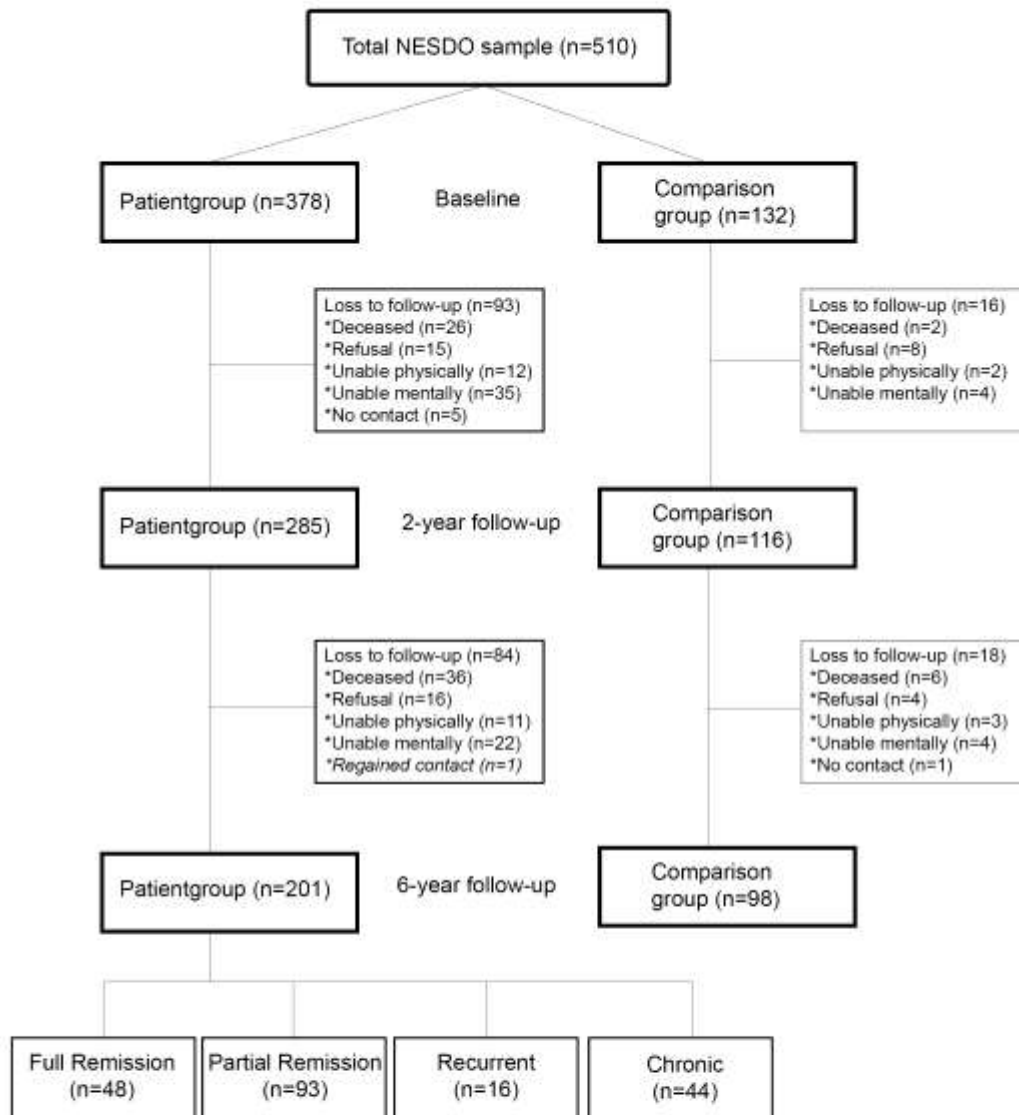
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575 Figure 2.



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