age-related cataracts. These reports have suggested that high and low BMIs can affect the onset or progression of age-related visual impairment. However, few prospective studies have examined this relationship in a general Asian population. Therefore, in this study, we investigated whether BMI was associated with increased risk of age-related cataracts by performing a 5-year prospective population-based study among a middle-aged Japanese population.

Methods This 5-year population-based study included 35365 men and 40825 women (aged 45–74), who were recruited onto the Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Study (JPHC Study) and had not reported cataracts in baseline survey. The self-reported diagnosis of age-related cataracts was used in the analysis of this study.

Results At follow-up, 1004 men (2.84%) and 1807 women (4.43%) reported new diagnoses of age-related cataracts. The multivariate ORs for those in the lowest and the highest BMI category, compared with a BMI category of 21.0–22.9 as a reference point (OR, 1.00), were 1.29 (95% CI 0.93 to 1.79) and 1.15 (95% CI 1.04 to 1.36) in men, and 1.23 (95% CI 0.97 to 1.55) and 1.19 (95% CI 1.04 to 1.36) in women.

Conclusion High and low BMIs have been suggested previously as the risk of age-related cataracts for Caucasian population in developed countries and the population living in developing countries respectively. However, the present large-cohort study showed that a U-shaped association between BMI and incidence of cataracts in Japanese men and women.
**P2-342** GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERN AND EPIDEMIOLOGY OF STOMACH CANCER MORTALITY IN IRAN

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**Background** Stomach cancer is the second commonest cause of mortality from cancer worldwide; in Iran it is the commonest. Geographical variation in the incidence of stomach cancer is reported. Data describing the geographical distribution of disease in Iran are lacking. The aim of this study was to examine geographical variation in stomach cancer mortality in Iran.

**Methods** We used the Iranian National Causes of Death Registry and estimated age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) of stomach cancer in 29 provinces, using the age distribution of the world standard population, stratified by sex and residential area (rural/urban).

**Results** ASMRs of stomach cancer were 15 per 100 000 in men and 8 per 100 000 in women. The highest and lowest mortality rates were observed in Kordestan (ASMR=29.1 per 100 000) and Hormozgan (ASMR=5.0 per 100 000) provinces in the north-western and southern Iran, respectively. The mortality rates were approximately twice as high in men and rural residents as women and urban residents respectively.

**Conclusions** The incidence of stomach cancer in Iran is a high with evidence of regional variation. The substantial variation in stomach cancer mortality rates between northern and southern Iran warrants further investigation. The results of this study can be used for resource allocation and to inform the designing of appropriate gastric cancer control programs in Iran.

**P2-344** FRAILTY AND MULTIMORBIDITY IN THE ELDERLY: RESULTS FROM THE KORA-AGE AUGSBURG SURVEY

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**Background** This study investigated the prevalence of frailty as well as its association with multimorbidity among older adults living in the South of Germany.

**Methods** 1079 participants aged 65 years and older were interviewed and took part in a physical examination in the KORA-Age survey. Frailty was defined by weight loss, exhaustion, low physical activity, slow gait speed, and reduced grip strength. Participants were classified as non-frail, pre-frail, and frail if they met 0, 1 or 2, and 3 or more criteria, respectively. Multimorbidity was defined in three groups, group 1 with no disease, group 2 with one or two diseases, and group 3 with more than three out of nine disease groups. Multivariable logistic regression analyses adjusted for malnutrition, alcohol intake, education and body mass index were performed.

**Results** The age-standardised prevalence of frailty and pre-frailty combined was 35.6% (95% CI 31.1 to 40.0) for male and 35.5% (95% CI 34.1 to 42.8) for female participants. Prevalence of frailty increased with age from 24.1% in the 65–69 year olds to 78.0% in the over 85 year olds for men (20.7% to 79.3% in women). The risk for being frail increased with higher multimorbidity scores (OR 1.9, 95% CI 1.4 to 2.6 for group 2 and OR 3.5, 95% CI 1.8 to 6.0 for group 3 each compared to group 1) after adjustment for covariables. 27.8% of pre-frail and frail persons had no disease.

**Conclusion** These data indicate that frailty is strongly associated with multimorbidity. Examinations of the course of frailty and its determinants are underway.

**P2-343** EFFECTS ANALYSIS OF THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ON NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS IN CHINA

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**Introduction** China is among the high incidence countries for neural tube defects (NTDs) and great efforts have been made towards their prevention. This study is to understand the effects and influencing factors on prevention measures.

**Methods** A matched case-control study and prevalence studies were employed. 459 women who gestated babies/foetuses with NTDs and their controls were selected and investigated in 24 districts of two provinces in China. Logistic regression models and interaction analysis was used for data analysis.

**Results** Folic acid supplementation, planned pregnancy, preconception examination and health education were associated with reduced NTDs (ORs 0.52, 0.27, 0.48 and 0.36 respectively). The folic acid supplementation rate was 5.0% of cases and 17.2% of controls. Folic acid supplementation showed synergistic interaction effects with the other primary prevention measures and prevention rates were 93%, 89% and 90% respectively. 85.9% of the NTDs were diagnosed by ultrasound screening on average at 24.0 weeks gestation. The detection rates by ultrasonography before 16, 16–20, 20–24, 24–28 and after 28 weeks were 14.1%, 49.4%, 46.3%, 49.2% and 52.1% respectively (p<0.05). The detection rates were 46.4%, 52.0% and 28.1% in hospitals, maternal and child care service centres and family planning centres respectively (p<0.05).

**Conclusion** Folic acid supplementation rate was low in the study subjects. Its use is correlated with planned pregnancy, preconception examination and health education. The efficiency of ultrasonography for NTDs screening could be improved in medical reproduction health institutions.