

Table 1
Characteristics of married couples

	Male decedents, bereaved wives				Female decedents, bereaved husbands			
	Used hospice	Did not use hospice	“Cases”	“Controls”	Used hospice	Did not use hospice	“Cases”	“Controls”
<i>N</i>	24,740	130,898	24,721	24,721	6176	33,739	6117	6117
<i>Characteristics of the bereaved spouse</i>								
Age at decedent’s diagnosis (mean) ^a	73.3	74.5	73.3	73.2	77.2	78.7	77.2	77.1
Age at decedent’s death (mean)	74.7	75.6	74.7	74.6	78.7	79.9	78.7	78.6
White race ^a	93.9%	92.5%	93.9%	94.1%	94.9%	92.8%	94.9%	94.8%
Medicaid recipient ^a	3.6%	6.4%	3.6%	3.5%	5.0%	10.7%	5.0%	4.9%
Median income of ZIP code (mean) ^a	\$ 31,027	\$ 29,835	\$ 31,025	\$ 31,205	\$ 32,057	\$ 29,708	\$ 31,960	\$ 31,920
Charlson co-morbidity score (mean) ^a	0.34	0.40	0.34	0.35	0.57	0.66	0.57	0.58
Dead by end of follow-up (June 30, 1999)	15.7%	20.0%	15.8%	16.5%	35.4%	42.4%	35.5%	36.1%
Dead 12 months after death of decedent	3.3%	4.1%	3.3%	3.7%	9.3%	10.9%	9.3%	9.6%
Dead 18 months after death of decedent	4.9%	6.2%	4.9%	5.4%	13.2%	15.7%	13.2%	13.7%
<i>Characteristics of the decedent</i>								
Age at Diagnosis (mean) ^a	76.1	77.5	76.1	76.1	75.4	77.0	75.4	75.4
White race ^a	93.2%	91.5%	93.2%	93.3%	94.6%	92.4%	94.6%	94.4%
Primary diagnosis ^a								
Myocardial infarction	8.4%	19.8%	8.4%	7.7%	6.3%	18.3%	6.3%	5.7%
Congestive heart failure	11.8%	21.9%	11.8%	11.9%	11.3%	21.2%	11.4%	12.0%
Stroke	9.5%	19.0%	9.6%	9.4%	10.6%	21.3%	10.7%	9.8%
Hip fracture	4.4%	7.9%	4.4%	4.8%	9.4%	14.7%	9.5%	10.2%
CNS cancer	1.9%	0.6%	1.9%	2.0%	2.7%	0.8%	2.6%	2.9%
Head and neck cancer	2.3%	1.1%	2.3%	2.3%	1.4%	0.5%	1.4%	1.4%
Liver and biliary tract cancer	2.2%	1.0%	2.2%	2.3%	3.2%	0.9%	3.1%	3.2%
Colon cancer	13.3%	5.4%	13.3%	12.7%	15.5%	4.9%	15.2%	15.2%
Leukemia	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	3.0%	2.3%	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%
Lung cancer	26.0%	11.6%	26.0%	26.1%	20.8%	7.7%	20.8%	20.6%
Lymphoma	5.3%	3.6%	5.3%	5.4%	6.7%	4.0%	6.7%	6.6%
Pancreatic cancer	4.4%	1.5%	4.4%	4.3%	6.3%	2.0%	6.2%	6.4%
Charlson co-morbidity score (mean) ^a	1.23	1.36	1.23	1.25	1.08	1.29	1.08	1.08
Survival from diagnosis to death, days (mean) ^a	530	420	529	534	520	416	514	515
<i>Characteristics of the initial hospital of the decedent</i>								
Technology index (mean) ^a	7.97	7.28	7.97	8.00	7.95	7.21	7.93	8.02
Teaching hospital ^a	14.0%	12.3%	14.0%	14.1%	14.8%	11.9%	14.6%	14.8%

^a Included in the computation of the propensity score. However, in the case of race, a set of five indicators (white, black, Asian, Hispanic and other) was used in the computation, and in the case of Charlson co-morbidity, a complex vector of indicators as described elsewhere [27] was used (rather than a simple continuous measure of the Charlson score, as shown in this table).