

Category : **Emergency room**

A214 - Elderly patients in the emergency department- a challenging job for emergency providers

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Introduction:

Taking care of the elderly might be real challenge especially in the emergency department (ED). The noticed increase in lifespan during the last decades made it the job of health care providers to ensure a good quality of care provided for these subjects. However, in areas of low resources where geriatric departments are still lacking, managing this fragile category of the population might be an even harder job to do.

The goal of our study was to establish the epidemiological characteristics, as well as to draw the pathological profile of these patients.

Methods:

This a prospective single-center study conducted in the ED of the Aghlabids Hospital, over a two-month period, from March 2020 till April 2020. We used SPSS22.0 for analytical analysis.

Results:

We enrolled 276 patients. There was a slight male predominance (56.88%, n=157). Mean age was at 72 years ranging from 65 years till 97 years. One third of the patients presented at least one comorbidity. A number of 186 patients presented a Daily Activity living (ADL) scale >3 which means 67.4% of the patients were not self-dependent. In our study, 76.81% (n=212) of the patients were performed additional medical investigations. Urinary tract pathologies were most common (39%, n=107) followed by locomotor system pathologies (20%, n=55), and surgical pathologies (14.5%, n=40). Only 3.5% (n=10) of the patients were admitted to the resus room and only 1.25% (n=3) of the patients needed urgent neurosurgical intervention. In our study, 56% of the patients were discharged to go home, while 44% of the patients were admitted to departments other than the ED.

Conclusion:

This study drew the particular and distinguished aspect of elderly patients who visit the emergency department. Trying to provide health care for such patients is challenging and requires a preestablished protocols. A geriatric department could also be a good idea since such departments are still lacking in areas of low resources such as Kairouan.