

NOTE PREVIEW ARTICLE

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF ELDERLY PATIENTS CARED FOR IN AN EMERGENCY ROOM*

PERFIL EPIDEMIOLÓGICO DE PACIENTES IDOSOS ATENDIDOS EM UM PRONTO-SOCORRO

PERFIL EPIDEMIOLÓGICO DE PACIENTES MAYORES ASISTIDOS EN UN PUESTO DE PRIMEROS AUXILIOS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to describe the epidemiological profile of elderly patients treated at a referral center for polytrauma patients. **Method:** this is a quantitative, descriptive and cross-sectional study that will be performed in a reference emergency room for polytrauma. The sample will be composed by elderly patients, aged 60 years and over, seen in the period from 2009 to 2019. The data will be stored in an Excel 2010® spreadsheet, exporting them to the Statistical software Package for the Social Sciences, version 19, analyzing them on the perspective descriptive. **Expected results:** it is expected to contribute to the scientific evidence on the demand for access to health in urgent and emergency services by this population, in addition to meeting the investigative priorities proposed by the Ministry of Health. **Descriptors:** Comprehensive Health Care; Workflow; Ambulatory Care; Health Services Research; Emergency Medical Services; Nursing.

RESUMO

Objetivo: descrever o perfil epidemiológico do paciente idoso atendido em um pronto-socorro referência para politraumatizado. **Método:** trata-se de um estudo quantitativo, descritivo e transversal a ser realizado em um pronto-socorro de referência em politraumatismo. Compõe-se a amostra pelos pacientes idosos, com idade igual e superior aos 60 anos, atendidos no período de 2009 a 2019. Armazenar-se-ão os dados em planilha do programa Excel 2010®, exportando-os para o software Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, versão 19, analisando-os de modo descritivo. **Resultados esperados:** espera-se contribuir com a evidência científica sobre a demanda de acesso à saúde nos serviços de urgência e emergência por essa população, além de atender às prioridades investigativas propostas pelo Ministério da Saúde. **Descritores:** Assistência Integral à Saúde; Fluxo de Trabalho; Atendimento de Emergência; Pesquisa sobre Serviços de Saúde; Serviços Médicos de Emergência; Enfermagem.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: describir el perfil epidemiológico de pacientes de edad avanzada tratados en un puesto de primeros auxilios de referencia para pacientes con politraumatismos. **Método:** este es un estudio cuantitativo, descriptivo y transversal que se llevará a cabo en un puesto de primeros auxilios de referencia en politraumatismos. La muestra estará compuesta por pacientes de edad avanzada, de 60 años o más, asistidos en el período de 2009 a 2019. Los datos se almacenarán en una hoja de cálculo de Excel 2010®, exportándolos al software Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, versión 19, analizándolos descriptivamente. **Resultados esperados:** se espera que contribuya a la evidencia científica sobre la demanda de acceso a la salud en servicios de urgencia y emergencia por parte de esta población, además de cumplir con las prioridades de investigación propuestas por el Ministerio de Salud. **Descritores:** Atención Integral de Salud; Flujo de Trabajo; Atención Ambulatoria; Investigación sobre Servicios de Salud; Servicios Médicos de Urgencia; Enfermería.

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INTRODUCTION

It is known that, since 1940, the Brazilian population has presented changes in its epidemiological profile, presenting an accelerated aging process due to the reduction in the growth rate and changes in the age structure. It is considered that aging brings significant changes in each person, social, psychological, economic factors and other quality of life variables experienced by the elderly determine how the search for health services will occur.¹⁻²

It is noted that many of those who exceed the age of 60 years had, throughout their lives, undesirable habits such as poor diet, physical inactivity, smoking and excessive use of alcoholic beverages. It is added that, for health services, the conditions in which people aged have a direct impact on the search for access.³⁻⁵

The main negative impact of population aging is the increase in the prevalence of chronic-degenerative diseases, which are the main causes of mortality and disability worldwide, which increases the risk for hospitalization.⁶⁻⁷

It is warned that another problem that has grown in the elderly population is external causes, characterized by accidents and violence and that should be the object of concern among health professionals. It is added that the increase in external causes in Brazil has had an impact on the organization of the health system due to the increase in spending on hospitalizations, treatments and overcrowding of emergency services.⁸

It is noteworthy that accidents and violence (external causes) occupy the fourth position among the causes of hospital morbidities, totaling 11,239 hospitalizations for external causes in the State of Minas Gerais in 2019.⁹

It is explained that external causes are considered important determinants of morbidity and mortality in the elderly, mainly represented by falls and traffic accidents. Trauma in the elderly represents a different dimension with unique challenges when compared to trauma in younger patients.¹⁰

It is considered that the occurrence of polytrauma is a public health problem, it generates hospitalization with a high cost for health treatment, with temporary, permanent physical disabilities and even death.¹¹

In this scenario, the knowledge of the epidemiological profile of the elderly cared for in an emergency unit of great importance becomes, increasing the perception of the need for a management of resources that underlies evaluations of administrative and economic policies in health.⁶

It is believed that the main contribution of this study, from an academic point of view, will be to expand knowledge on the subject and instigate

reflections on potential interventions. From the organizational point of view, it is expected that the data collected will provide inputs for the planning of actions necessary for the management and organization of health care, in order to develop the necessary skills to achieve the desired results, which contribute to the strengthening of quality, safe and transparent care. It is believed, for society, that the potential contribution will be to provide health professionals with information that allows them to better subsidize their work practice, culminating in better service to the population.

OBJECTIVE

- To describe the epidemiological profile of the elderly patient treated at a referral center for polytrauma patients.

METHOD

This is a quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional study, to be carried out in a reference emergency room for polytrauma in the State of Minas Gerais (MG), Brazil.

It refers to the quantitative approach to empirical research investigations whose main purpose is to outline or analyze the characteristics of facts or phenomena, the evaluation of programs or the isolation of main or key variables. Quantitative devices are used by all of them, with the objective of systematically collecting data on populations, programs or samples of populations and programs. Various techniques are used, such as interviews, questionnaires, forms and sampling procedures are used.⁹

It is clarified that the cross-sectional study is an epidemiological study strategy, of an observational nature, which analyzes data collected over a certain period of time.

It is justified that the descriptive research exposes characteristics of a certain population or a certain phenomenon or the establishment of relationships between variables. It is revealed that it can also establish correlations between variables and define its nature and further argues that it has no commitment to explain the phenomena it describes, although it serves as the basis for such an explanation.

Research will be carried out at the Emergency Hospital Complex of the State of Minas Gerais, a center specialized in trauma that, as an emergency service, operates uninterruptedly with an operational capacity of 295 beds, which, in exceptional situations or in extreme need, incorporate another 64 emergency beds. Permanent medical assistance is provided in the following specialties: Anesthesiology; Plastic surgery; General surgery; Vascular surgery; Thoracic surgery; Neurosurgery; Orthopedics; Otorhinolaryngology; Clinical pathology; Imaging; Medical clinic; Pediatrics; Ophthalmology; Clinical

Toxicology; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Large Burn.

It should be noted that the study was not intended to investigate and approach humans directly. All data collection will be carried out using the information contained in the electronic medical record available in the Institutional Integrated Hospital Management System Database.

Information from the care database will be included in the research, with the elderly being selected in the sample, that is, patients aged 60 years and over, attended in the period from 2009 to 2019. It is justified to choice of time frame by the epidemiological representativeness of the ten-year period.

The following variables will be investigated: age; sex; marital status; schooling; origin; day of the week and opening hours; symptomatic complaints; type of risk; Primary ICD; Secondary ICD; outcome (discharge to home, hospitalization, transfer to another health service or death); period of stay in the unit.

The data will be stored in an Excel 2010 spreadsheet®, submitting them to descriptive analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software, version 19.

This study was approved by the respective Research Ethics Committees under No. CAAE 98627418.0.0000.5149.

EXPECTED RESULTS

It will be expected to contribute with scientific evidence on the demand for access to health in urgent and emergency services by this population, in addition to meeting the investigative priorities proposed by the Ministry of Health - 2018, specified in item 9.21, which deals with the analysis of the epidemiological profile of patients seen in the network and in urgent and emergency services of the Unified Health System.

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