

MORTALITY IN AN ACUTE CARE GERIATRIC UNIT

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OBJECTIVE: To analyze the characteristics in patients who die in an Acute Care Geriatric Unit (AGU)
METHODS: We included patients who died during 2009 in an AGU. Variables analyzed were: age, sex, functional status measured by previous Barthel index (BI) and BI at admission, Lawton index (LI); cognitive status measured by Pfeiffer test (PT); comorbidity measured by Charlson index (CI) and social environment. Correlation between geriatric syndromes' was studied: immobility, pressure ulcer, incontinence, gait disorders, falls, polypharmacy, constipation, sensorial disorders, malnutrition, depression, demencia, delirium, insomnia. **RESULTS:** Among 871 patients admitted in the AGU during 2009, 147 patients (16.9%) died. Mean age 86 ± 6.8 years, 68% were women. Previous functional status was: previous BI 38.3 ± 35.2 and LI 0.7 ± 1.4 . More than 20% loss of previous functional status was found, measured by BI at admission (9.9 ± 20). Demencia was found in 60.5% (PT 6.6 ± 3.4), high comorbidity (CI 2.9 ± 2.2) and social frailty measured by Gijon scale (8.1 ± 2.2). There was significant correlation between dead elderly patient with: immobility ($p < 0.0005$), pressure ulcer ($p < 0.001$) and malnutrition ($p < 0.05$). Statistical differences between previous functional status (previous BI and LI) ($p < 0.0001$, $p < 0.0001$) and at admission ($p < 0.0001$) were found. Patients had higher comorbidity ($p < 0.001$) and cognitive impairment ($p < 0.0001$). **CONCLUSIONS** - Elder who die in a AGU is dependent, cognitive impaired and with high comorbidity - Mortality in the elderly correlates to malnutrition, pressure ulcers, immobility - Mortality prognostic factor for frail elderly admitted to an AGU should be found.