



Effect of pain in elderly users on readmission: a single hospital experience

M.Bonetto^{1,2}, P.Cosio^{1,2}, L.Barutta^{1,2}, E.Pizzolato^{1,2}, E.Bernardi^{1,2}, P.Crida^{1,2}, V.Olocco^{1,2}, G.Racca^{1,2}, C.Serraino^{1,2}, E.Testa^{1,2}, F.Tosello^{1,2}, A.Allione¹, B.Tartaglino¹

¹ Emergency Department, Santa Croce and Carle Hospital, Cuneo, Italy

² School of Medicine, University of Turin, Italy

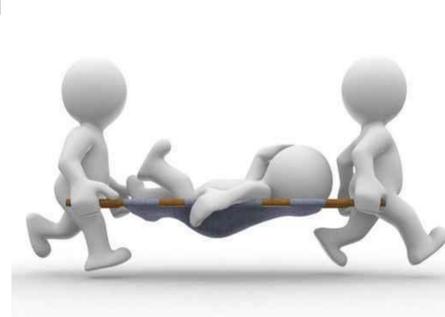
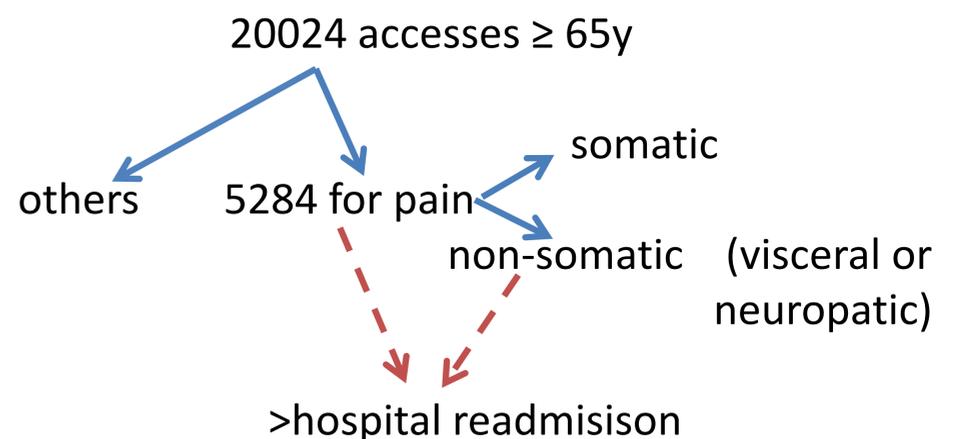
Aim: To determine whether Emergency Department (ED) elderly (≥ 65 yr) users with pain are more likely to be readmitted compared to those with other symptoms and whether they are visited for somatic or non-somatic (visceral or neuropatic) pain.

Methods: We performed a retrospective cohort study exploring ED elderly users with pain diagnosis at a single hospital and included all ED patients between January 1 and December 31, 2013. We compared differences in ED visits with a primary International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision diagnosis of pain between single visit users (1 visit over the year) and repeated visit users (> 2 visits over the year) in univariate and multivariable analyses.

Results: Elderly users evaluated for pain (5284/20024 [26,4%] patients) more frequently repeat a visit during the year than those with no diagnosis of pain (53,2% vs 37,6% - O.R. 1,88 [1,76-2] - $p < 0,0001$).

No differences in repeated visit group were observed between users with acute pain and users with chronic and/or exacerbated pain (47% vs 48% - O.R. 0,95 [0,78-1,16] - $p = 0,68$).

We also observed that elderly users with diagnosis of non-somatic pain (67,8%) were more likely to repeat a visit during the year than the ones with somatic pain (55% vs 49,4% - O.R. 1,25 [1,11-1,4] - $p = 0,0002$).



Conclusion: Elderly ED users complaining pain are more likely to repeat a visit than the ones without pain, especially those with non-somatic pain. A more adequate analgesic therapy at discharge in elderly users may be necessary in order to reduce the trend of this phenomenon.