
PREVALENCE OF DELIRIUM IN GERIATRIC INPATIENTS OF GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Background: World tendency towards overall age increase of the population leads to increase of elderly people among patients. Delirium (confusional state) is common in geriatric inpatients in general hospital. It is one of the most significant syndromes of cognitive dysfunction in people of senior age. The presence of delirium increases the duration of hospital stay, morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: To evaluate the prevalence of delirium amongst inpatients of senior age in different departments of general hospital.

Methods: We have studied a total of 247 randomly selected inpatients. Of these, there were 113 patients in the Traumatology Department and 134 in the Neurology Department. Delirium was diagnosed based on the criteria of ICD-10. We used the Mini-mental state examination (MMSE) scale as a metric of the degree of the disorder of cognitive functions.

Results: 60 patients (24,3%) of the studied population were found to be delirious. There were 26,5% of delirious patients in the Traumatology Department and 22,4% in the Neurology Department. And the maximum prevalence of delirium was in the range of 81-85 years (39%).

Conclusions: We present statistically significant results showing unequal prevalence of delirium amongst elderly inpatients of the two biggest departments of the general hospital. The large amount of delirious patients forces of medical professionals to pay more attention on psychiatric condition of patients.