

“Around 90” Patients: The New Urological Emergency

Introduction and Objective: Between 2005 and 2006, the Italian population incremented by 300,000 units, becoming 58,751,711. Of these, 20% is represented by people over 65 years of age; 500,000 of them are over 90-year-old. The ageing of the Italian population is significantly higher than in the rest of Europe and the USA. The costs of the sanitary system are progressively rising along with the age of the population. Urology is one of the most interested medical specializations. Aim of the study is the epidemiological description, using basic statistics, of the new urological emergency represented by the hospital treatment of patients over 85-year-old.

Materials and Methods: We contacted the “System of Remuneration and Epidemiology Structure” of the Lombardy Region, in order to obtain data dealing with inpatients over 85 years old in Urology wards in 2010 and 2011. Disposable data were: age (in years), length of the hospital stay (in days), main diagnosis and, if present, secondary diagnoses.

Results: In 2010, a total of 158,000 hospital admissions were made in Lombardy. Between 2010 and 2011, 4745 patients over 85 years old were admitted in Urology wards, 2383 in 2010 (average 87.5 years of age) and 2362 in 2011 (average 87.7 years of age). In 2010, mean hospital stay was 7.5 days; in 2011 7.3 days. Between 2010 and 2011, admissions for neoplastic diseases were 2815 (59.3%) (mean hospital stay 7.4 days; average age 87.65 years); those for benign diseases were 1930 (40.7%) (mean hospital stay 7.2 days; average age 87.65 years). Bladder cancer represent the most frequent diagnosis, with 2072 admissions (43.65%), 1131 in 2010 (47.5%) and 941 in 2011 (39.8%).

Conclusions: Patients over 85 years old represent a part of the admissions in Urology wards in Lombardy. Neoplastic diseases account for near 60% of the admission diagnoses; among these, bladder cancer is the most frequent. Despite the widespread shortening of hospital stay, the older population still requires longer than the average inward stay. Thus, these kinds of patients represent a challenge of great interest for the Urologists. This fact implies the need for a precise use of the available resources and for precise guidelines for the management of these patients.