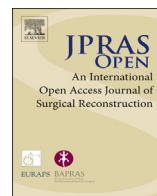




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Original Article

Epidemiology of facial fractures in the elderly

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 31 October 2017

Accepted 5 March 2018

Available online 27 March 2018

Keywords:

Elderly individuals

Fractures

Face

Epidemiology

ABSTRACT

Facial fractures are considered more common in young individuals. However, they are also increasing in the aging population. Investigation of the characteristics of such fractures is important so as to be able to devise preventive measures and specifications for their proper treatment. We carried out a descriptive retrospective epidemiological study. The information was taken from a database of medical files of patients over 65 years of age in the setting of the emergency ward. Patient information was included for 157 patients aged 65 to 100 years. Two-thirds of the individuals with facial trauma were women. Twenty-eight had a prior history of cognitive impairment. For half of the cases, the trauma occurred at their place of residence, while accidents and falls in public areas were not uncommon. The most frequent site for the fractures was the middle third of the face. These facial fractures were serious in light of their location, as well as the associated skeletal and intracranial lesions. The number of such fractures can be expected to increase with time. Their hospital cost is higher than with younger individuals. Preventative measures need to be devised and the treatment should be all-encompassing.

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Introduction

Maxillofacial traumatology is considered to be a pathology that is more common in young individuals.^{1–4} However, as the population ages, fractures of the face are being seen more and more in elderly individuals.^{5–9} The increase in the number of such fractures has been constant over the past

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpra.2018.03.002>

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30 years.⁹ This may be because the increase in life expectancy has been accompanied by more active physical and social lifestyles. Such physical and social activities can lead to facial trauma, as well as falls due to precarious health.

In 2030, the elderly individuals are estimated to account for 20% of the population in the United States of America, which will probably also be the case for most other developed countries,⁹ thereby posing an increasingly pressing public health issue.

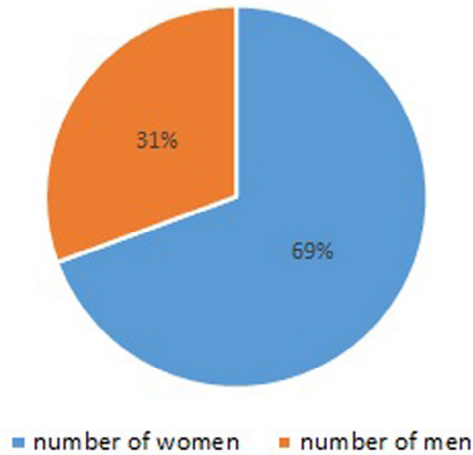


Figure 1. Distribution based on gender. Sixty-nine percent of patients were women; 31% were men. N = 157.

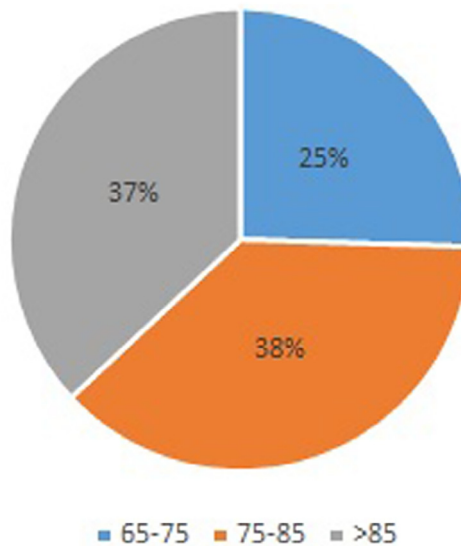


Figure 2. Distribution by age group. Thirty-eight percent of patients were between 75 and 85 years of age; 37% were between 65 and 75; and 25% were older than 85. N = 157.

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