

65 歲以上老年人急診就醫行為調查—以某區域教學醫院為例

**The Use of Emergency Service in Elderly
—an example for a Regional Teaching Hospital**

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Background: The elderly population is increasing in Taiwan. The elderly often has multiple chronic diseases and frequently uses the medical resources of emergency services.

Method: To exam the utilization of emergency services in elderly patients, we reviewed all patients responded to an Emergency Department (ED) of a community teaching hospital between January 1 to December 31. Patients were divided into two groups; one was over (including) age 65 and the other was under age 65. Data comparisons included visiting department, mode of arriving, triage category, and final disposition. The monthly visiting percentage and the common illness of the elderly were also analyzed.

Results: Of all emergency patients during a year, 18.96% were the elderly. The main visiting department of two groups was internal medicine, but the elderly group had significantly higher percentage (80.10% vs. 46.52%). Two groups have significant differences in triage category 1, 2 and 3. The elderly group was 40% in category 2; the younger group was 52.7% in category 3 and the elderly group had significantly higher percentage (22.6% vs. 6.99%) in category 1. The elderly group had a significantly higher hospitalized percentage than the younger group (38.84% vs. 11.78%). The leading illnesses in the elderly were unknown diagnosis, gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory diseases, trauma and intoxication. February had the most visiting elderly patients, and the following is March.

Conclusions : In order to provide better emergency care for the elderly, hospital EDs should be prepared to meet the need of the elderly based on their roles in the medical care system.