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MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS OF ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENTS: DIFFERENCES DUE TO AGE

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Introduction: Patients suffering serious mental diseases have more medical comorbidity and a higher mortality than the general population, something that has important clinical and an economical impact. Age is an influential variable in a patient's clinical course.

Objectives: Descriptive retrospective study from September 2007 to May 2010. Centralized database exploitation. Center: San Carlos Clinic Hospital, Madrid. Variables: number of patients, mean age, median stay, number of visits, % resolved in first visit, mortality and delay.

Three groups of comparison are established depending on the age: 18-44, 45-75 and > 75 years of age. A $p \leq 0,05$ has statistical significance.

Results: 606 patients are included. Table 1 shows all variables for the three groups.

Age Group	<45 years	45-75 years	>75 years	p value
Number of patients (males %)	34,8% (210.89) (39,4%, 83.09)	49,7% (301.18) (55,5%, 167.16)	15,4% (93.32) (10,1%, 9.43)	$p < 0,012$
Mean age (SD)	34.12 (6,89)	58.96 (9.04)	80.70 (4.08)	$p < 0,002$
Median Stay (interquartil range, IQR)	0 (0-5)	3.5 (0-8)	6.0 (0-16)	$< 0,001$
Number of visits (IQR)	2 (1-3)	2 (1-4)	3 (2-6)	$< 0,001$
% resolved in first visit	42,9%	32,3%	20,0%	$< 0,001$
Mortality	0	0	1	$< 0,617$
Delay (% seen the same day of calling)	96,2%	93,3%	90,2%	$< 0,001$

[Table 1]

Conclusions: Statistical significance exists for all variables analyzed and for every comparison established apart from mortality. Mortality is very low (just one death in group age >75). Group age 45-75 years presents major number of consultations to internal medical liaison Unit. Age is a decisive variable in the clinical course of patients with medical problems.