

Particularity of Geriatric Gynecological Pathology of 269 Menopausal Women in the Maternity and Newborn Center of Monastir

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Over the last decade, there has been an increasing interest in the health of elderly people. With the sharp rise in life expectancy, the number of people aged 65 years or over is projected to increase steadily over the next few decades. Obviously, more care providers and resources will be required to meet their needs for health care services. Western countries have shown special interest in the field of gynecological pathology for years which is not the case in most developing countries. Thus, we decided to carry out this study dealing with all the pathologies of elderly women aiming mainly at listing the geriatric gynecological pathologies of our population and to study the peculiarities and the management of each pathology.

Materials and methods: This is a retrospective descriptive study carried out at the Monastir Maternity Center over a period of nine years. This study involved 269 women aged over 65 years admitted to the Monastir Maternity Center.

Results: Our patients were classified into 4 groups: a breast pathology group, pelvic cancers group, pelvic static pathology and disorders group, and a group of other pathologies. The average number of hospitalizations was 30 women per year. It was in the range of 35.5 % admissions per year and 3% of total admissions in gynecology. The average age of our patients was 70.6 ± 5.6 years (range: 65 and 89 years). The average length of hospital stay was 17.2 days. Co-morbidities, mainly arterial hypertension, diabetes and heart disease, were found in 72.5% of our study

population. In our patients, the gynecological pathologies were dominated by cancers (46.1%), followed equally by mild conditions (27.1%) and pelvic floor disorders (26.8%). Breast cancers were the most common, followed by those of the cervix and the body of the uterus. For benign pathologies, uterine disorders were the most frequent followed by those of the breast and the ovaries.

Conclusion: Nowadays, the health of the elderly is of great interest. Population projections predict a growing number of people aged over 65 therefore, increasingly requiring more significant health care and services. Western countries' interest in the field of gynecological pathology dates back to a very long time ago which has yielded a large number of publications on this subject. However, in Tunisia and for years the interest in gynecological pathology has been centered more on the gynecologically active women than on elderly women. This is underlined by health programs aimed primarily at promoting the health of mothers and children.