

**Incidence, Mortality and Trends of Multiple Myeloma in Geriatrics:
Monastir-Tunisia, 2002–2013**

*Kalai W,
Dhouib W
Kacem M
Chelly S
Hajjaj M
Missaoui H
Djobbi A
Green A
Abroug H
Ben Fredj M
Zemni I
Bouannene I
Belghuith Sriha A*

Department of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology of Monastir

Please cite this article as: Wassim Kalai et al. Incidence, Mortality and Trends of Multiple Myeloma in Geriatrics: Monastir-Tunisia, 2002–2013. Middle East Journal of Age and Ageing. 15(3):70. DOI: 10.5742MEJAA.2018.93583

ABSTRACT

Background: Multiple myeloma (MM), which derives from the neoplastic transformation and proliferation of a post-germinal center B-cell, is one of the most frequent hematological malignancies. Death rates have been falling over the last decade, which may be due to improving therapeutic landscape, novel drugs and better understanding of disease biology.

The objective of this study was to describe incidence, mortality rates, and trends for multiple myeloma (MM) in the Monastir region during 12 years contributing to better knowledge on the epidemiology of MM in Tunisia.

Methods: We have included all hospitalizations for MM (using ICD-10 coding: C 90) at the university hospital of Monastir between 2002 and 2013. Enrolled patients were residents of Monastir. Data were collected from the regional register of hospital morbidity and mortality implemented at the Department of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology.

Results: During the period of 12 years, 627 hospitalizations for multiple myeloma were recorded among people aged more than 65 years with crude prevalence rates (CPR) of 120/100,000 inhabitants. The mean age was 72 years (SD= 5.5) with a sex ratio 1.11 . We established a positive trend of MM from 2002 to 2013 (b=4.13; r=0,7; p<10⁻³). The lethality rate was 1.6%.

Conclusion: There has been a marked increase in the prevalence of multiple myeloma cases from 2002 to 2013. This may be the result of either a better accessibility to health services and better MM diagnosis or it may reflect a real increase of MM cases. Thus, further studies are needed to explain this trend.