

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INCIDENCE OF HOSPITALIZATION AND READMISSION OF THE ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISORDERS

I. Wróblewska^{1,2}, B. Mroczek³, J. Błaszczuk⁴, D. Kurpas^{2,5}

¹ Health Sciences Department, Medical University in Wrocław, ul. Kazimierza Bartla 5, 50-996 Wrocław, Poland

² Public Higher Medical Professional School in Opole, 68 Katowicka St., 45-060 Opole, Poland

³ Department of Humanities in Medicine, Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, 48 Żołnierska St., 71-210 Szczecin, Poland

⁴ Faculty of Postgraduate Training, Wrocław Medical University, Poland ⁵ Department of Family Medicine, Medical University in Wrocław, 1 Syrokomli St., 51-141 Wrocław, Poland

Respiratory disease in elderly is a complex problem. They are difficult to diagnose due to polypharmacy, concomitant diseases and cause increased mortality due to under-diagnosis. Other important factor is strived to minimize the number of hospital stays. The purpose of the study was evaluation of the factors affecting the rate of hospitalization in elderly patients with chronic respiratory disorders. We analysed the medical records of 217 patients. The inclusion criterion was the age ≥ 65 years and spirometry test results availability. Majority of respondents were male (119) and the average age of respondents was 70.1 ± 5.5 years. Variables affecting the incidence of hospitalization were: patients' age, diagnosis, diet, being a smoker and place of treatment (hospital vs. ambulatory). Our results have shown statistical significance between results for hospitalization and: results of parameters FVC, FEV₁ and FEV₁ / FVC as well as between the results of the parameters FVC and FEV₁ and the age of the respondents and the number of readmissions. Preventive program aimed at reducing the number of hospitalizations should be direct mainly to men over 65 yrs., from the city, with concomitant diseases, a diagnosis of cancer and non-smoking. Studies indicate the need to intensify outpatient care, which increases the chance of the hospitalization reduction. Key words: elderly patients, hospitalization, pulmonary diseases