

THE INCIDENCE OF DELIRIUM IN OLDER PATIENTS ATTENDING
THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Delirium is an acute and reversible neuropsychiatric syndrome characterized by alterations in consciousness, attention, and cognitive functions, which increases morbidity and mortality and leads to prolonged hospital stays and higher economic costs. Between 8 and 17% of patients aged 65 years or older who attend the Emergency Department (ED) may suffer from delirium. One of the axes of delirium research is based on early detection including validated scales.







OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to analyze the incidence of patients aged 65 years or older attending the ED of the Hospital Universitario de la Ribera (HULR) who are diagnosed with delirium. It also aimed to analyze sociodemographic characteristics and variables related to triage, emergency department, and discharge destination.

METHOD

A retrospective observational study was conducted, including patients aged 65 years or older who attended the ED from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- Year **2024**, **132370** patients 
- A proportion of 27.87% (n=36893) + **65** years (77.68 (SD 7.98))
- 0.07%** (n=27) patients **DELIRIUM**  primary diagnosis
- 0.05%** (n=2) patients **DELIRIUM**  secondary diagnosis
- Urinary tract infection** being the primary diagnosis **5.53%** (n=2040).
-  **54.98%** (n=20285)
- The **diagram** most frequently used in **triage**
 - “limb problems”** at 16.75% (n=6180)
 - “adult with poor general condition”** at 16.39% (n=6046).
- priority P4** of **66.4%** (n=24493)
- 60.18%** (n=22204)  **consultation area**
- 32.5%** (n=8991)  mean length of stay of **6.12 days** (SD 7.31)

CONCLUSION

The percentage of patients diagnosed with **delirium** in the Emergency Department of HULR is below those of previous studies. Screening with scales such as the **4AT**, which is easy and quick to apply, may help identify delirium in the ED and **reduce its impact**.