PREVALENCE OF FRAILTY AND SPATIOTEMPORAL DISORIENTATION IN COMMUNITY PHARMACY

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Background In geriatrics, current works are focusing on frailty in elderly people. A study showed that those with severe frailty were four times more likely to be admitted to hospital, five times more likely to die, and six times more likely to enter a nursing home within 12 months.

Purpose Determine - the prevalence of frailty and spatiotemporal disorientation - who pick up patients’ drugs at community pharmacy and who manage them at home - the rate of frail and/or disoriented patients managing their drugs alone.

Method We conducted a cross-sectional study in April-May 2017. Students from six French Faculties of pharmacy interviewed patients aged 65 and over, underwent their 6th grade stage. This interview included an orientation test in time and space and a frailty assessment grid (SEGA). When the patient did not come to the pharmacy, the student conducted a telephone interview or an appointment at his home.

Findings 218 students interviewed 4090 patients. 60% were women. Their average age was 77.5 years (+/- 7.6 years). They took 5.4 drugs a day [1; 35]. The prevalence of frailty is 25%, that of disorientation in time and space is 9.4%. 78% of them came to get their medicine alone, 14% sent a caregiver or a health professional over, 8% came to the pharmacy with a caregiver. 81% managed their medications alone, a caregiver managed the medicines for 11% of them, a health professional intervened for 8% of them. 479/1025 frail patients managed their drugs alone, 133 of 384 disoriented patients managed their medications alone.

Conclusion Frail and/or disoriented patients are identifiable in community pharmacy. A significant proportion of them manage their medicines alone. Community pharmacists could offer them new services.