



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA**  
**FACOLTÀ DI MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA**  
**POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

**X CONGRESSO NAZIONALE SIMEU**

**Il volto della Medicina di  
Emergenza-Urgenza:**

**identità professionale e servizio pubblico**



**EMIG – GEMIG**

**EMERGENCY AND GERIATRIC MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP**

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# La strategia paziente-centrica nel management dell'anziano in DEU

**Prof Giovanni Ricevuti**

**EMIG – GEMIG**

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<http://elearning3.unipv.it/medicina/course/index.php?categoryid=1>

# **CENTRALITA' DEL PAZIENTE ANZIANO IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

- **CENTRALITA'**
- **PAZIENTE**
- **ANZIANO**
- **EMERGENZA ED URGENZA**

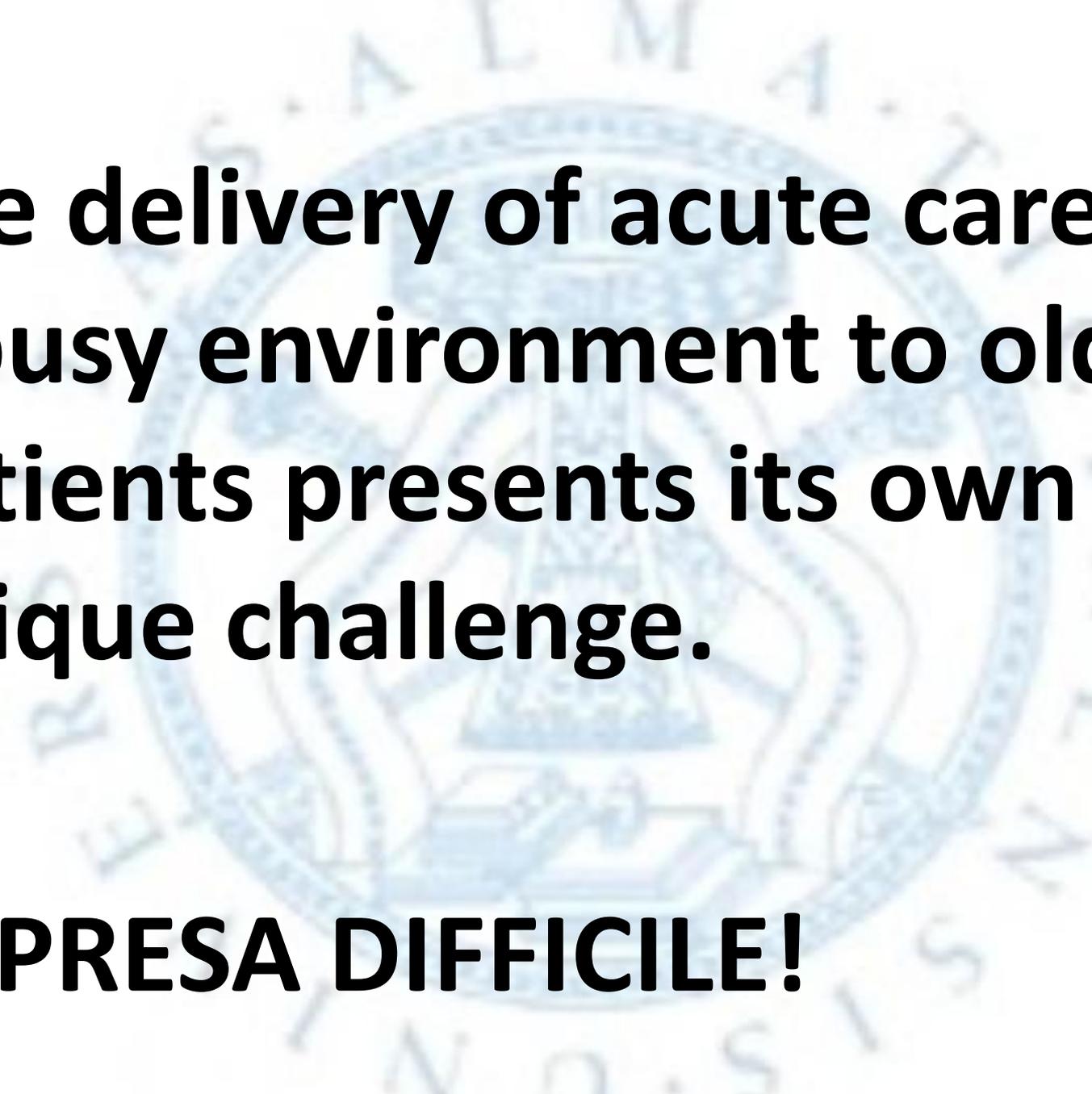
# **CENTRALITA' DEL PAZIENTE ANZIANO IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

## **QUATTRO ITEM DEL benessere organizzativo:**

- il paziente,
- i colleghi,
- la professione e
- l'organizzazione sanitaria

# **CENTRALITA' DEL PAZIENTE ANZIANO IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

- **INFORMAZIONE**
- **COMUNICAZIONE**
- **COMPARTICIPAZIONE,  
EMPOWERMENT**
- **COINVOLGIMENTO,  
COMPLIANCE**
- **ORGANIZZAZIONE**

- 
- **The delivery of acute care in a busy environment to older patients presents its own unique challenge.**
  - **IMPRESA DIFFICILE!**

# STATIC EVALUATION

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Implies that the speaker's feelings  
are **UNCHANGING**

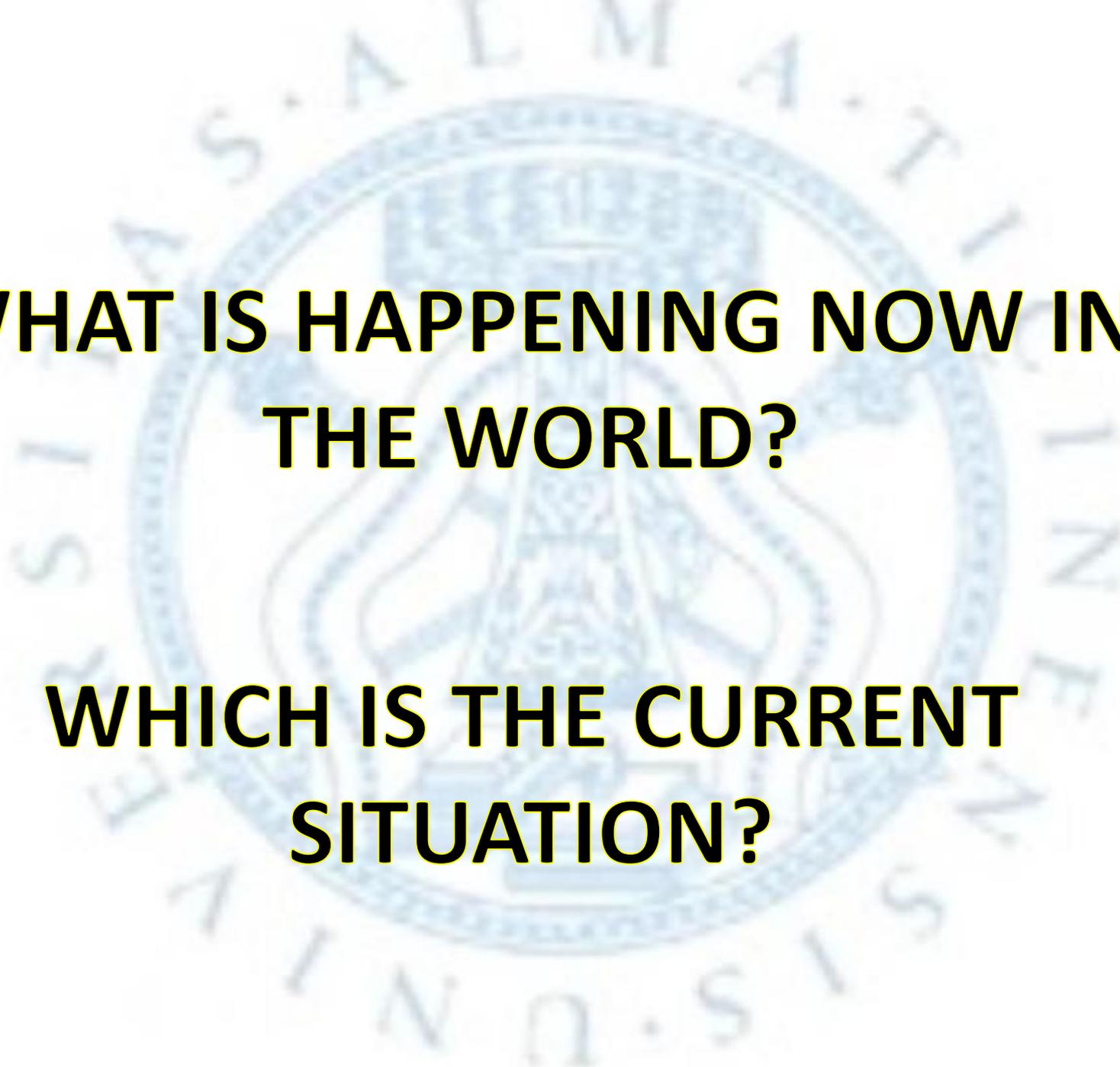
Key words or phrases:

Is

I am

I / he / she will

- Older patients in the emergency department (ED) are a **vulnerable population** who are at a **higher risk of functional decline** and **hospital reattendance** subsequent to an ED visit, and have a **high mortality rate** in the months following an ED attendance.



**WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN  
THE WORLD?**

**WHICH IS THE CURRENT  
SITUATION?**

Sebbene già nel 1992 la Geriatric Emergency Task Force  
(*Sauders AB. Care of the elderly in ED: conclusion and  
recomandations. Annals of Emergency Medicine*)

raccomandava attenzione ai problemi sociali, psicologici e  
funzionali della popolazione anziana da parte dei  
professionisti dei reparti di emergenza, nonché  
l'implementazione di tali principi nella routine pratica,  
la maggior parte dei report degli staff di PS dichiarano di  
aver ricevuto una preparazione inadeguata in ambito  
geriatrico.



---

‘We are going to need more consultants with skills in acute, general and geriatric medicine to be able to cope with the ageing population.’

---

**Hospital workforce  
Fit for the future?**

A report by the Royal College of Physicians  
March 2013

# THE CURRENT CRISIS IN HOSPITAL CARE

**‘We are going to need more consultants with skills in acute, general and geriatric medicine to be able to cope with the ageing population.’**

# THE CURRENT CRISIS IN HOSPITAL CARE

- Over the past 10 years hospital admissions have risen by over 35% while hospital bed numbers have fallen by 10%.
- Hospitals have so far only managed to cope with these dramatic changes by reducing average length of stay but can no longer cope with the increasing demands posed by the number of hospital patients.

# THE CURRENT CRISIS IN HOSPITAL CARE

- The number of frail elderly people in hospital is increasing year on year and this has been identified as the key challenge
- The proportion of frail elderly people has risen to **30% of all admissions** in the past year.
- The average **length of stay** is **LESS THAN 4 DAYS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 60**, and **over 10 days for those over the age of 75.**

# THE CURRENT CRISIS IN HOSPITAL CARE

- 'ACUTE MEDICINE' is a new specialty that concerns the care of general medical patients in the first 24–48 hours in hospital. GERIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE
- Acute medicine is **distinct** from the broader field of emergency medicine, which is concerned with the management of all people attending the emergency department, not just those with internal medicine diagnoses

# British Geriatric Society

## Commission on Improving Dignity in Care for Older People

**Commission to improve dignity in care provided to older patients in hospitals and care homes.**

- **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

# British Geriatric Society

- **1. What in your opinion are the main factors that contribute to the **failure** of hospitals and/or care homes to **meet** the immediate health, nutrition, hydration and hygiene **needs of older people**?**
- **Do you have any evidence to support these opinions?**

# British Geriatric Society

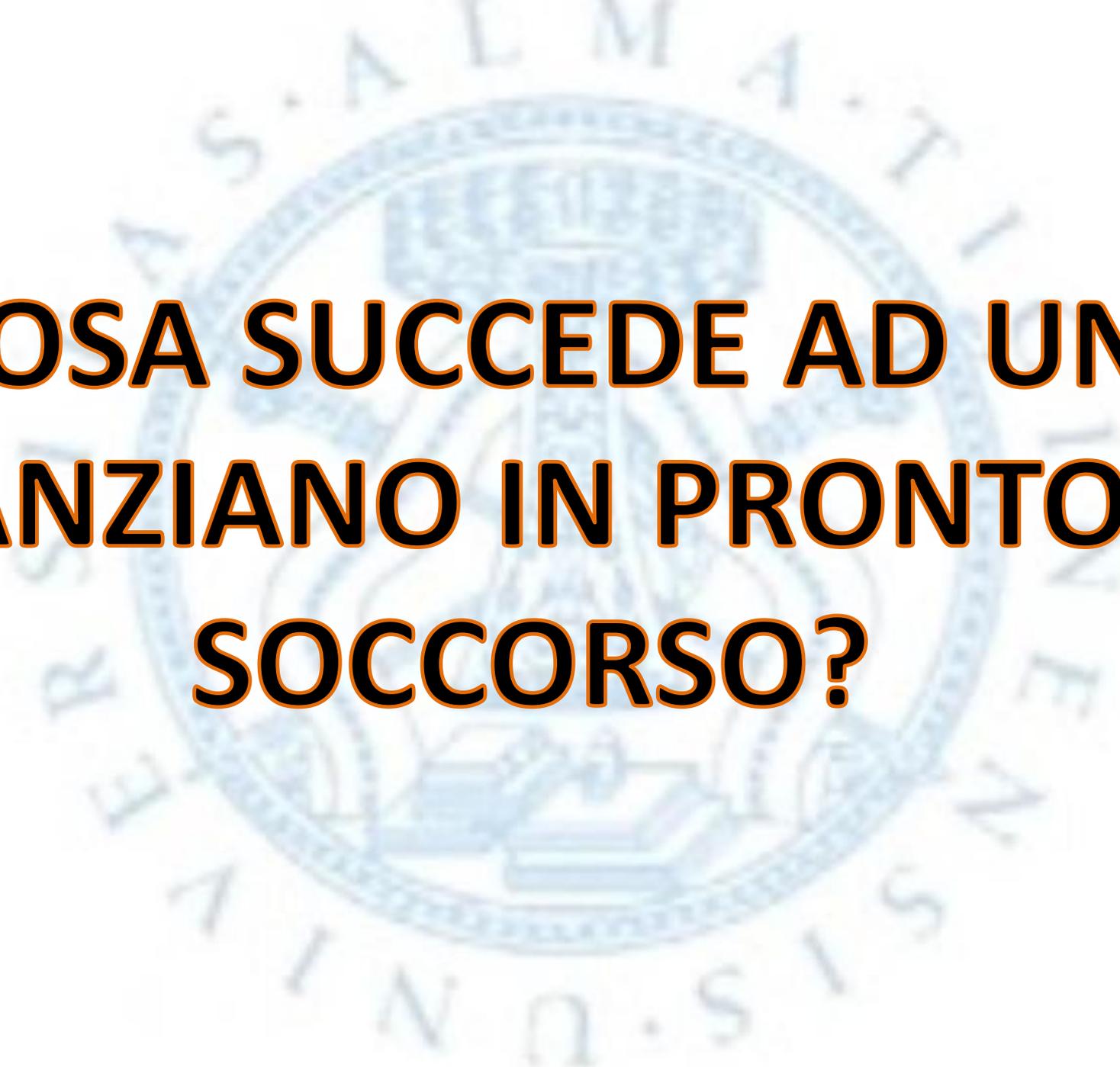
- The main factors contributing to the **failure** of hospitals and/or care homes to meet the needs of older people has been the **systemic failure to provide healthcare staff with appropriate skills and training** and in sufficient numbers to meet the increasing complexity of **frail older people** in hospitals and in care homes. There has also been an assumption that there is no need to teach staff about what compassion, empathy, dignity and humanity in routine care means to the patient, resident of a care home and their next of kin.

# British Geriatric Society

- **Two thirds** of people in **care homes** have a form of **dementia** and up to **one quarter of hospital beds are occupied by people with dementia**.
- People with **dementia stay in hospital up to twice** as long as other people who go in for the same procedures.
- The **failure to recognize their needs** has contributed to the **poor care that they often receive**

# British Geriatric Society

- Problems often arise from a **breakdown in communication** between medical and nursing staff.
- In acute hospitals, doctors are often no longer **accompanied** by nurses on ward rounds. This separation, and sometimes segregation, leads to either no sharing or inappropriate sharing of information (for example, discussing patients in front of others in the middle of a ward).



**COSA SUCCEDE AD UN  
ANZIANO IN PRONTO  
SOCCORSO?**

# PROBLEMS:

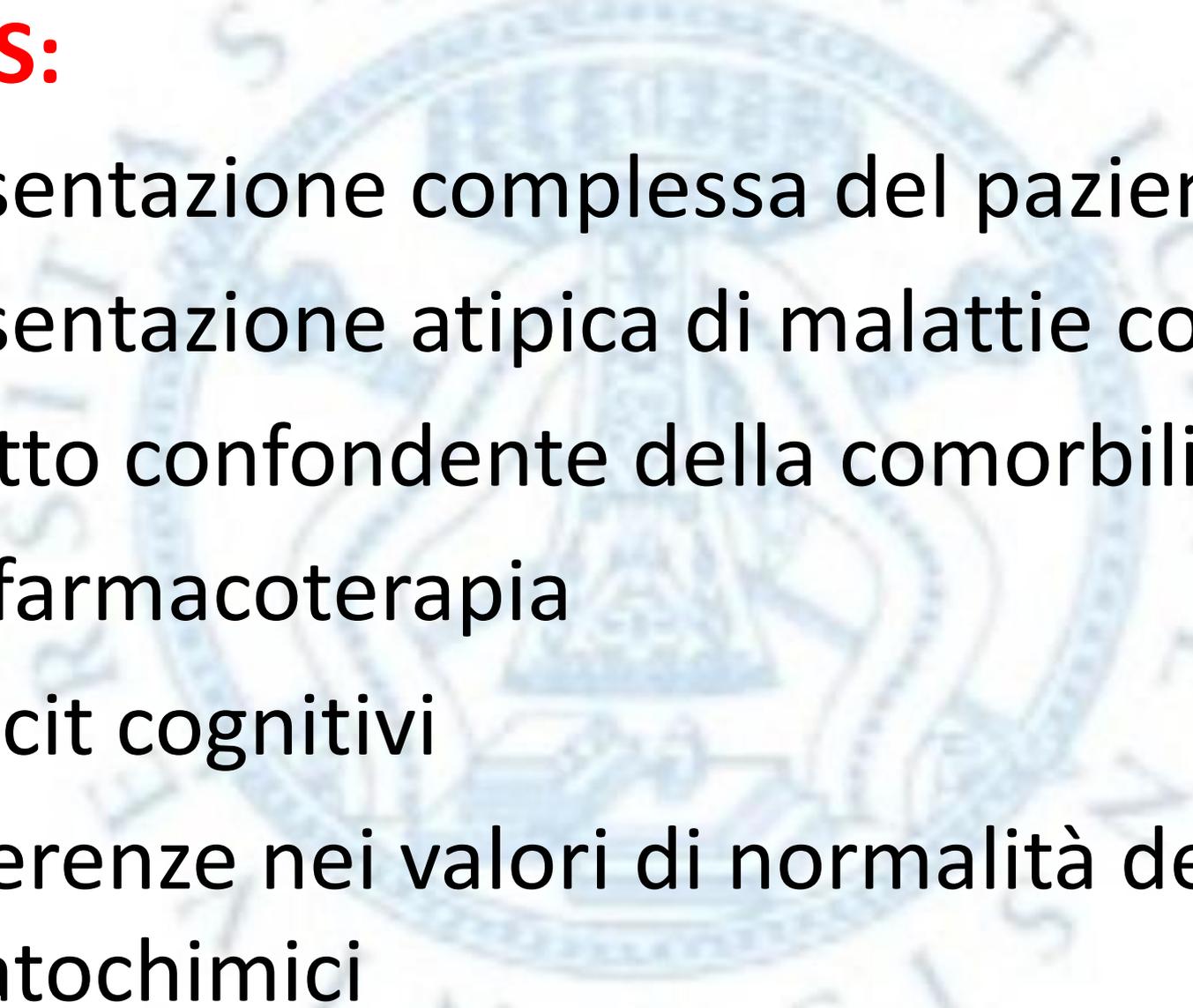
- **Atypical clinical presentation** of illness,
- high prevalence of **cognitive disorders**,
- presence of multiple **comorbidities**
- **complicate evaluation and management of older patients.**
- **Increased frailty, delayed diagnosis, and greater illness severity** contribute to a
- **higher risk of adverse outcomes.**

**NON CURARE LE MALATTIE ACUTE  
DELL'ANZIANO**

**MA CURARE UN ANZIANO CON  
MALATTIE ACUTE**

**CURARE UN ANZIANO CON MALATTIE  
ACUTE SU MALATTIE CRONICHE**

**GERIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

- 
- **Principi teorici dell'approccio geriatrico in PS:**
  - Presentazione complessa del paziente
  - Presentazione atipica di malattie comuni
  - Effetto confondente della comorbidità
  - Polifarmacoterapia
  - Deficit cognitivi
  - Differenze nei valori di normalità dei test ematochimici

- **Principi teorici dell'approccio geriatrico in PS:**
- Riduzione della riserva funzionale
- Essenzialità della conoscenza dello stato funzionale di base
- Inadeguato supporto sociale
- **Accesso in PS come un'opportunità per valutare importanti condizioni di salute e di vita del paziente**

Although purely “social” ED admissions certainly occur (impossibility of the family), emergency physicians must always consider that subacute or acute illness can present as functional decline, motivating the social ED visit (51%)

A recent study reported that although

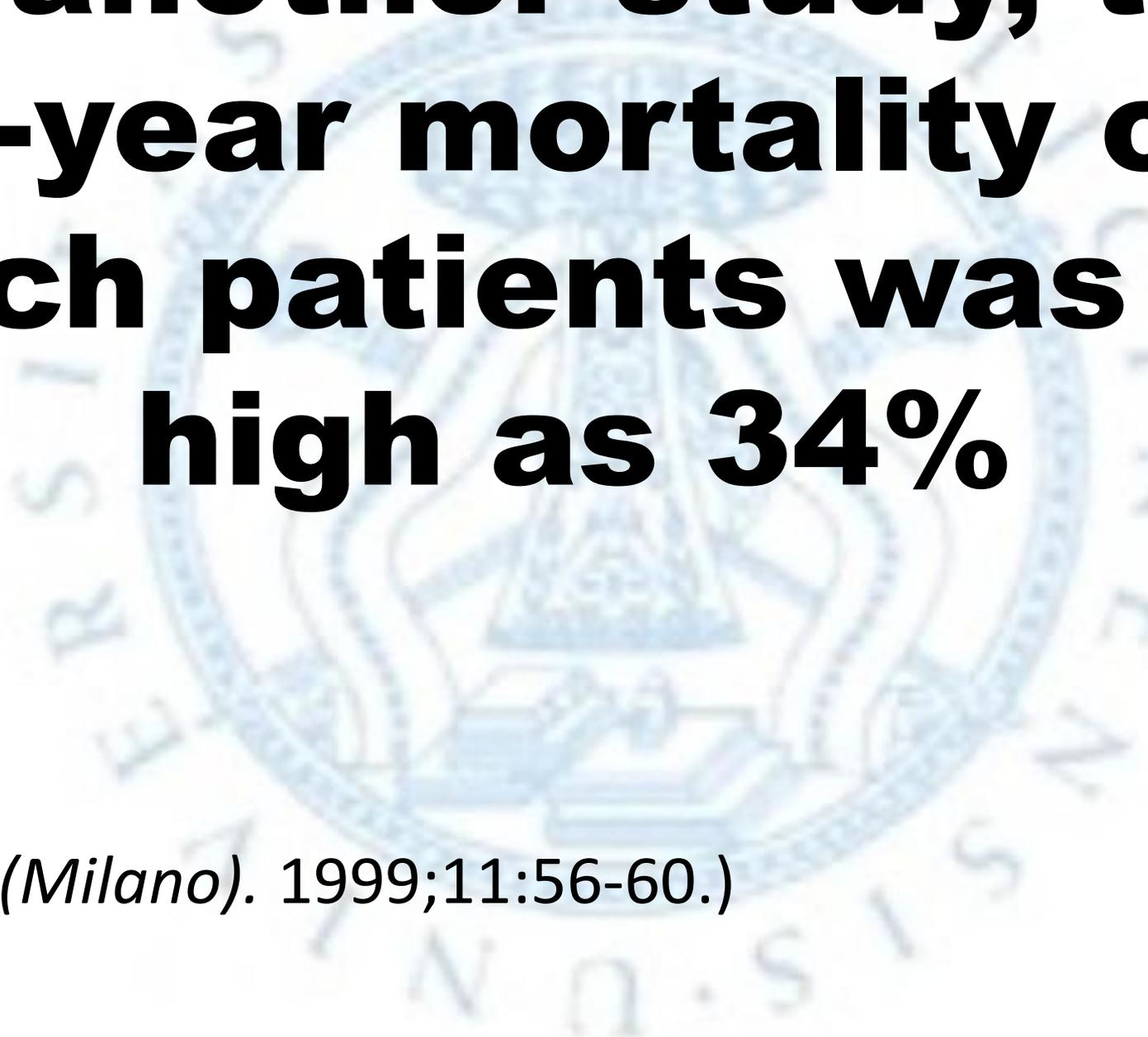
- 9% of older patients were admitted to the ED ostensibly for social reasons,
- 51% of these patients had an underlying acute medical problem such as:
  - infectious (24%),
  - cardiovascular (14%),
  - neurologic (9%),
  - digestive (7%),
  - pulmonary (5%), or
  - other disorders (delirium, fractures, anemia, acute renal failure, uncontrolled pain, etc).

# **COMMON GERIATRIC DISEASES IN ED**

- **delirium,**
- **Infections,**
- **acute pain,**
- **recently prescribed medications,**
- **cardiovascular disease, and**
- **Chronic disease exacerbation**
- **may result in acute modifications of the patient's functional status and an ED visit**

# COMMON GERIATRIC DISEASES IN ED

- **Chronic orthopedic,**
- **cardiovascular, and**
- **neurologic conditions**
- **may also lead to altered functional status, primary caregiver exhaustion, and social ED admission.**



**In another study, the  
1-year mortality of  
such patients was as  
high as 34%**

*(Aging (Milano). 1999;11:56-60.)*

# **ANZIANO IN ED**

**Recognizing older  
patients in need of  
comprehensive geriatric  
assessment**

# Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment in the ED

**Table 1. Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Tools in the Emergency Department**

Topic	Tool	Items	Score
Delirium	Confusion Assessment Method <sup>5</sup>	(1) Acute onset of changes or fluctuations in the course of mental status (2) Inattention (3) Disorganized thinking (4) Altered level of consciousness	At risk if 1 and 2, plus feature 3 or 4
Cognition	Quick Confusion Scale <sup>6</sup>	Time orientation (3 questions) Mental count Mental flexibility Delay recall	6 points 2 points 2 points 5 points At risk if <11 points
Depression	Hustey's questionnaire <sup>7</sup>	(1) During the past month, have you often been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless? (2) During the past month, have you often been bothered by little interest or pleasure in doing things?	1 point per question At risk if $\geq 1$ points
Functional status	Older Americans Resources and Services ADLs <sup>8</sup>	7 ADLs (bathing, dressing, toilet use, transfer, feeding, continence and walking) 7 instrumental ADLs (using the telephone, travel, shopping, meal preparation, housework, taking medicine, and management of finances)	2 points if independent 1 point if help necessary 0 points if dependant At risk if <28 points
Falls	One leg balance <sup>9</sup>	Ability to stand on one leg unsupported for 5 seconds.	At risk if <5 seconds
Polypharmacy	Beer's criteria <sup>10</sup>	Identify inappropriate medication	

# ANZIANO IN ED

- **Key elements of comprehensive geriatric assessment**
- **Medical assessment:** Problem list, Comorbidities, Medications, Nutritional assessment
- **Functional assessment:** Basic activities of daily living, Instrumental activities of daily living, Gait assessment, Exercise/activity assessment
- **Psychological assessment:** Cognitive status, Assessment of mood
- **Social assessment:** Informal social support
- **Environmental assessment:** Care resource eligibility/financial assessment Home safety Access

# Neuropsychiatric Disorders

- **25% of all older patients** presenting to the ED as a result of **delirium, dementia, or both**.
- **The Geriatric Emergency Medicine Task Force recommends a mental status assessment for all older patients in the ED.**
- **Delirium** is potentially severe and important to recognize quickly.
- It occurs in 7% to 10% of this population and is associated with increased mortality

# CAM

- 1.** Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient's baseline?
- 2a.** Did the patient have difficulty focusing attention, for example, being easily distractible, or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said?
- 2b.** Did the behavior fluctuate during the interview, that is, tend to come and go, or increase and decrease in severity?

# CAM

3. Was the patient's **thinking disorganized or incoherent**, such as rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from subject to subject?
4. Overall, how would you rate this patient's **level of consciousness**?

- **alert** (normal)
- **vigilant** (hyperalert)
- **lethargic** (drowsy, easily aroused)
- **stupor** (difficult to arouse) ● **coma** (unarousable)

(feature shown by any answer other than “alert”)

# Six-Item Screener to Identify Cognitive Impairment

Question	Score Range	Score
1. What year is it?	<b>0 – 4</b> Correct - 0 points Incorrect – 4 points	
2. What month is it?	<b>0 – 3</b> Correct – 0 points Incorrect – 3 points	
3. Give the patient an address phrase to remember with 5 components, eg <b>John, Smith, 42, High St, Bedford</b>		
4. About what time is it (within 1 hour)	<b>0 – 3</b> Correct – 0 points Incorrect – 3 points	
5. Count backwards from 20-1	<b>0- 4</b> Correct - 0 points 1 error – 2 points More than 1 error – 4 points	
6. Say the months of the year in reverse	<b>0- 4</b> Correct - 0 points 1 error – 2 points More than 1 error – 4 points	
7. Repeat address phrase <b>John, Smith, 42, High St, Bedford</b>	<b>0 – 10</b> Correct - 0 points 1 error – 2 points 2 errors – 4 points 3 errors – 6 points 4 errors – 8 points All wrong – 10 points	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>0 – 28</b>	<b>/28</b>

## Outcome from Score

<b>0-7 = normal</b>	<b>Referral not necessary at present</b>
<b>8- 9 = mild cognitive impairment</b>	<b>Probably refer</b>
<b>10-28 = significant cognitive impairment</b>	<b>Refer</b>

# ED DEPRESSION SCREENING TEST

- 1) Ti senti spesso triste o depresso?
- 2) Ti senti spesso abbandonato e senza aiuto?
- 3) Ti senti spesso malinconico e abbattuto?

Almeno 1 risposta positiva, identifica un'elevata probabilità di depressione

# Screening for frailty

- **Short screening instrument (FRESH-screening)**
- The questions were as follows:
- 1) “Do you get tired when taking a short (15–20 min) walk outside?” (positive answers included both “yes,” and “can’t do it”)
- 2) “Have you suffered any general fatigue or tiredness over the last 3 months?”
- 3) “Have you fallen these last 3 months?” and “Are you afraid of falling?” (positive answers included “yes, a bit,” “yes,” and “yes, very afraid”);

# Screening for frailty

- **Short screening instrument (FRESH-screening)**
- 4) “Do you need assistance in either getting to the store, managing obstacles (such as staircases) to and from the store, or in choosing, paying for, or bringing home groceries?”
- 5) question pertained to having had three or more emergency department (ED) visits over the last 12 months
- **frailty by answering “yes” to two or more of these five questions**

# FALL

- Falls are the main cause of ED admissions for elderly patients (15% to 30%).
- **A targeted interview of the patient and the caregiver on previous falls, as well as location, activity, and symptoms preceding the actual fall, assisted by the mnemonic “**CATASTROPHE**”, may help to distinguish between an isolated episode and a fall as a result of an underlying pathology or general frailty.**

# FALLS

- Falls may also be the chief symptom of other pathologies such as:
  - acute myocardial infarction,
- **sepsis,**
- **medication toxicity,**
- **acute abdominal pathology,** and
- **elder abuse.**
- **Four percent to 6% of falls result to fractures**
- Hip fractures accounting for 1% to 2% of them.
- **Two percent to 10% of falls produce other major injuries requiring hospitalization or immobilization**

# MNEMONIC FOR an older patient's fall

- C** Caregiver and housing (information on the circumstances of present fall and falls history)
- A** Alcohol (including withdrawal)
- T** Treatment (medications, recently added or stopped, compliance)
- A** Affect (depression or lack of initiative)
- S** Syncope (any episodes of fainting)
- T** Teetering (dizziness)
- R** Recent illness
- O** Ocular problems
- P** Pain with mobility (as the reason for falls in chronic joint pain or as the result and proof of repeated falls)
- H** Hearing (necessary to avoid hazards)
- E** Environmental hazards (rags, steps, etc)

# ABDOMINAL PAIN

- Abdominal pain is the main complaint in **3% to 13% of ED visits** in older patients.
- Compared with that of younger patients, **mortality rates are 6 to 8 times higher** and surgery rates are increased 2-fold.
- The rates of **correct diagnoses** for abdominal pain in the ED differ greatly throughout the literature and range from **40% to 82%**

# TARGETING “HIGH-RISK” ELDERLY

- **1.** Before the illness or injury that brought you to the emergency department, did you need someone to help you on a regular basis? **(yes)**
- **2.** Since the illness or injury that brought you to the emergency department have you needed more help than usual to take care of yourself? **(yes)**
- **3.** Have you been hospitalized for one or more nights during the past 6 months (excluding a stay in the emergency department)? **(yes)**

# TARGETING “HIGH-RISK” ELDERLY

- **4.** In general, do you see well? **(no)**
- **5.** In general, do you have serious problems with your memory? **(yes)**
- **6.** Do you take more than 3 different medications every day? **(yes)**

# **INDICE PROGNOSTICO MULTIDIMENSIONALE (MPI) di Pilotto**

- L'indice MPI e' un indice prognostico di mortalita' a breve (1 mese) e lungo-termine (1 anno) basato su informazioni ottenute da una Valutazione Multidimensionale (VMD) del soggetto anziano.**

# INDICE PROGNOSTICO MULTIDIMENSIONALE (MPI)

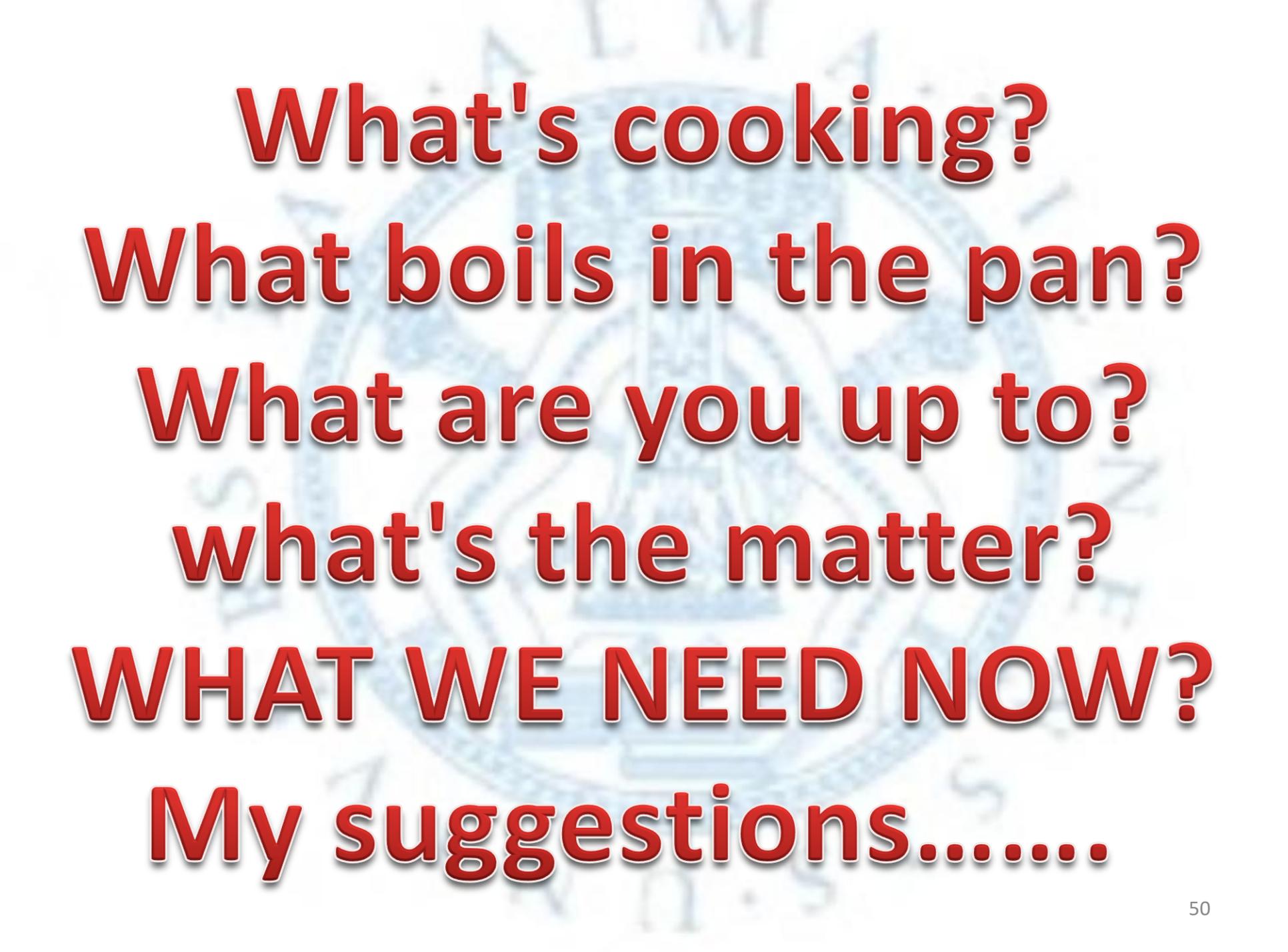
- **8 domini della VMD:**

1. Activities of Daily Living (ADL),
2. Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL),
3. Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire (SPMSQ),
4. Mini Nutritional Assessement (MNA),
5. scala di Exton-Smith,
6. Comorbidity Index Rating Scale (CIRS),
7. numero di farmaci,
8. stato abitativo.

# **LEADING TO CONCLUSIONS**

**WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN  
THE WORLD?**

**WHICH IS THE CURRENT  
SITUATION?**



**What's cooking?**  
**What boils in the pan?**  
**What are you up to?**  
**what's the matter?**  
**WHAT WE NEED NOW?**  
**My suggestions.....**

# WHAT'S COOKING?

- ❖ NEED TO GIVE RIGHT TRAINING FOR GERIATRIC URGENTISTS
- ❖ NEED 'TO GIVE AN EDUCATION IN **GERIATRICS TO URGENTISTS AND IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE TO GERIATRICIANS**
- ❖ IMPOSE THE USE OF A COMPREHENSIVE **GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT** IN THE ELDERLY IN ER
- ❖ APPLY ALL THE **SCALE** FOR DISABILITY, FRAILITY, COMORBIDITY, BEERS CRITERIA
- ❖ DIFFERENT **ORGANIZATION** OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

# FIRST SOLUTION

## Geriatricians in ER



# Geriatrics in the Emergency Department :

MARRIAGE

OR

MAYHEM

A small black bomb with a lit fuse is positioned at the end of the word 'MAYHEM', which is written in a textured, 3D block font.

**The Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto**



# SECOND SOLUTION

## EDUCATION IN GERIATRICS



# GEM Education

- Staff Inservices
- Orientation of new staff
- Informal Education  
[for staff, caregivers, patients]
- Marketing of services, media

# THIRD SOLUTION

NEW  
ORGANIZATION  
OF ER OR ED



# Ideas for Future GEM

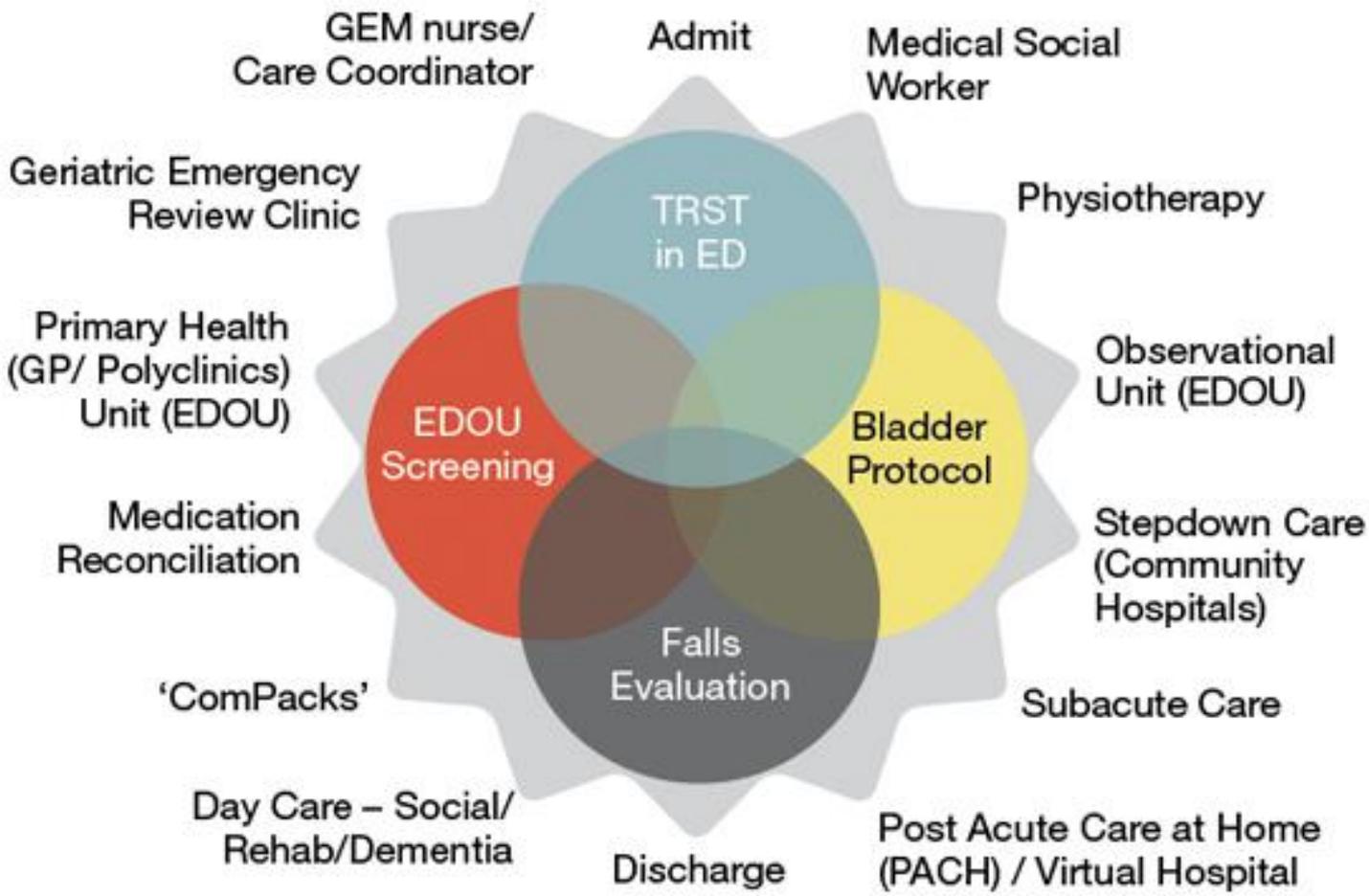
- **'GERI AREA' in ED**
- **Strategic partnerships between LTC, acute care hospitals**
- **Research** : EMS workers gather information

# **New Age: Why the World Needs Geriatric Emergency Medicine**

***The world's elderly population continues to explode, creating both strain and opportunity in the field of emergency medicine. Emergency physicians need to respond by solidifying the ED as the hub of care for the aging patient.***

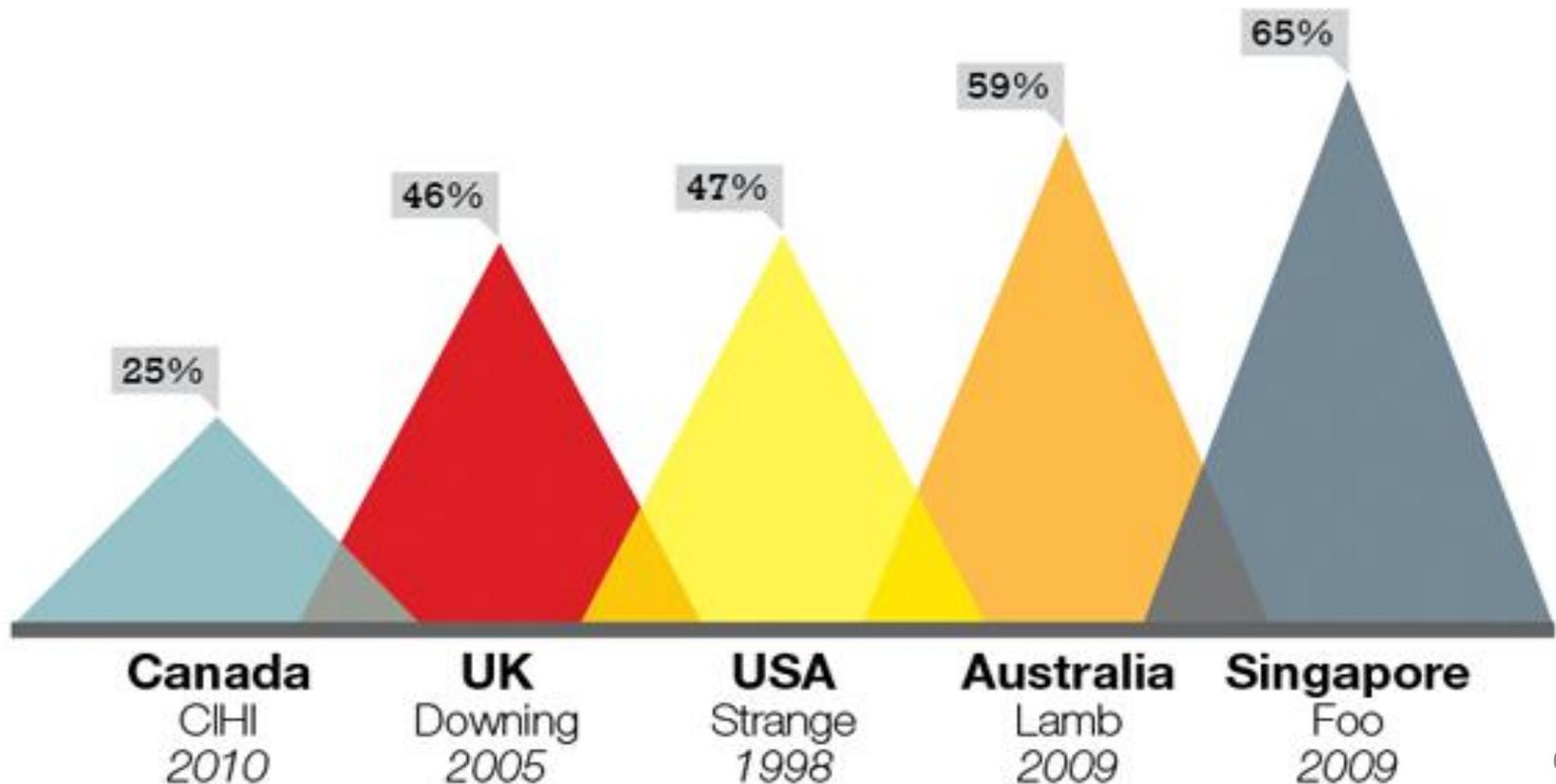
# New Age: Why the World Needs Geriatric Emergency Medicine

Fig. 1: The ED as a Hub of Care for the Elderly



# New Age: Why the World Needs Geriatric Emergency Medicine

Fig. 2: Elderly admission rates across five of the world's most developed healthcare systems



# **New Age: Why the World Needs Geriatric Emergency Medicine**

**One of the main hurdles to overcome is demonstrating that the geriatric ED can provide better health, improved patient experiences and reduced cost to the healthcare system.**

# Learning Needs Assessment Screening At-Risk

## Elderly in the Emergency Department

TORONTO GENERAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

1. Have you taken a course on adult physical assessment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Did you learn about normal aging changes on your course?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>All the following questions refer to patients 75 years of age or older</b>	
3. Depression in the elderly is a common problem. Major depression in the elderly typically includes negative thoughts, extreme sadness, and severely limited activity. Do you routinely ask you elderly patients whether they feel depressed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you find it easy to tell whether your elderly patients are depressed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Dementia is a disorder of cognitive function of sufficient severity to interfere with independent functioning. It is characterized by significant memory impairment. Disturbances to higher cortical function such as judgment or language may also be present. Do you routinely ask your alert elderly patients questions which help you determine whether they are dementing?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please give two examples of questions that you might ask:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

# Learning Needs Assessment Screening At-Risk Elderly in the Emergency Department

<p>6. Before discharging a confused elderly patient, do you confirm with family that there has been no acute change in mental status?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7. Do you routinely ask your elderly patients whether they have difficulty performing the following activities of daily living?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. eating</li> <li>b. washing/grooming</li> <li>c. dressing</li> <li>d. toileting</li> <li>e. meal preparation</li> <li>f. housekeeping/laundry</li> <li>g. mobility (e.g. walking, getting up from sitting)</li> <li>h. shopping</li> <li>i. using the telephone</li> <li>j. driving</li> <li>k. handling finances</li> </ul>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. Which of the following is part of your routine assessment for an elderly patient who presents with a fall?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ask about alcohol consumption</li> <li>b. ask about any previous falls</li> <li>c. screen for visual impairment</li> <li>d. check for orthostatic hypotension</li> <li>e. walking aids</li> <li>f. whether they live alone</li> </ul>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9. Do you routinely ask elderly patients what they weigh?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10. Do you routinely ask elderly patients whether they have experienced any unplanned weight loss?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>

CLINICAL

# Learning Needs Assessment Screening At-Risk Elderly in the Emergency Department

<p>11. When do you ask your elderly patients about alcohol consumption?</p> <p>a. when they have alcohol on their breath</p> <p>b. when they present with a fall</p> <p>c. when they appear underweight or have obvious wasting.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>12. Elder abuse is defined as any action by a caregiver which results in physical or mental harm to the elderly individual. Neglect is the intentional withholding of the basic necessities of life such as medical care, adequate food, personal care, and safe surroundings. Elders can also be subject to financial abuse.</p> <p>Please list two indicators that would raise your suspicion about the possibility of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>a) _____</p> <p>b) _____</p>	
<p>13. Which of the following would raise your suspicion about the possibility of caregiver stress?</p> <p>a. caregiver fatigue</p> <p>b. caregiver displays poor coping strategies</p> <p>c. caregiver is angry; lashes out at hospital staff</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>14a. Do you routinely ask your elderly patients whether they receive assistance from family, friends, neighbours, or community resources (eg home care).</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>14b. Do you routinely recommend referral to homecare, or social work etc. if think that the need is there</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p>

# Learning Needs Assessment Screening At-Risk Elderly in the Emergency Department

15. Less than half of elderly patients presenting with myocardial infarction have chest pain.	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>
16. Less than half of elderly patient presenting with myocardial infarction have ECG changes.	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>
17. Septic elderly patients can present without an elevated white blood count or fever.	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>
18. The elderly presenting with an acute abdomen will demonstrate guarding or rebound tenderness	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>
19. Thirst is a good indicator of dehydration.	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>
20. Urinary incontinence is a normal part of aging	True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/>

# CONCLUSION:

Treatment of acutely sick frail elderly patients in a **geriatric evaluation and management unit (GEMU)** gave

- considerable **reduction of mortality**
- increased the patients' chances of being able to live in their own homes

Ref: I Saltvedt & al J Am Ger Soc 2002

**Triage of Geriatric Patients in the Emergency Department:  
Validity and Survival With the Emergency Severity Index  
Ann Emerg Med. 2007;49:234-240.]**

- We evaluate the validity of the **Emergency Severity Index** (version 3) (ESI) triage algorithm in a geriatric emergency department (ED) population and determine the association between **ESI categorization and survival.**
- When used to triage patients older than 65 years, the ESI algorithm demonstrates validity. Hospitalization, length of stay, resource utilization, and survival were all associated with ESI categorization in this cohort.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Problema internazionale del sovraffollamento del PS
- aumento della prevalenza di anziani in PS
- sebbene l'accesso in PS sia secondario a problemi di salute emergenti ex-novo, e quindi debba essere inevitabile, necessario e appropriato, in molte circostanze **l'uso del PS è frutto la soluzione di bisogni sanitari persistenti non riconosciuti**

# CONCLUSIONS

- the appropriate use of available **screening and assessment tools**
- can help emergency physicians **provide high-quality care to older patients**, the increasing population.
- *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 2010



**THANK YOU**

