

THE ELDERLY NEUROPSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS PREVALENCE

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RESUMO: Introduction: The elderly population in Brasil is increasing year after year. The process of rapid aging is not unique to Brazil, and can be observed in several developing countries around the world. As like as increase in life expectancy, the demand for long term care institutions for elderly people is also increasing too. These institutions receive elder people in situations of vulnerability due to incapacitating diseases, judicial decision

or family insufficiency. These elderly people, often, suffer from pathologies that make them unable to perform basic daily activities, with significantly impacts their quality of life. In particular, neuropsychiatric disorders represent a double burden for the elderly people, who already feel with the limitations of age and also have limitation due the mental disease. Objective: In this context, there is relevance to highlight the prevalence of neuropsychiatric disorders in institutionalized elderly in Fortaleza. Method: Data were collected between March 2017 and May 2018, with the application of questionnaires and interviews in 8 institutions, which housed 193 elderly. From the questionnaires, data were analyzed considering casuistry of neuropsychiatric disorders in the population of elderly institutionalized in Fortaleza-CE. Results: In this population, 193 elder people interviewed, 42 had some neuropsychiatric disorder (21.8%). Of these, 20 have a depressive disorder (42.5%), 21 have schizophrenia (44.7%), 4 have bipolar disorder (8.5%) and 2 have panic syndrome (4.3%). Conclusion: In summary, there are a large number of individuals affected by neuropsychiatric illness in long term care institutions for elderly people in Fortaleza –

Ceará, being, predominantly, depressive disorders and schizophrenia. The numbers show the significant relevance of this theme to the academic community, so, knowing this fact, we could find ways to provide a better quality of life for this part of the population, so that they will get old with dignity and comfort, social and mental.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Elderly; Neuropsychiatric illness; Prevalence