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SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF A BRAZILIAN FRAILTY ELDERLY SAMPLE

A.S. Ferreira¹, E.M.S. Barbosa², N.R.B. Raposo^{1,3}, W.F. Gattaz¹

¹Institute of Psychiatry, Clinical Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, ²Centro Mais Vida (SES/MG), ³Faculty of Pharmacy, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil

Introduction: Frailty elderly is defined as the person older than 80 years old or between 60-80 years old and who has polipathologies; polipharmacy; total or partial immobilizations; fecal or urinary incontinence; postural instability; cognitive or functional impairment; frequently hospitalizations. Since they are complex patients, the knowledge about their social-economic profile contributes to the success of health professionals' assistance, because it directly influences on each person health.

Objectives: Determine the social-economic profile of a Brazilian frailty elderly sample assisted in a public service.

Aims: The knowledge about social-economic profile can guide the assistance and health promotion campaigns.

Methods: 126 frailty elderly were interviewed. A validated Brazilian questionnaire (ABIPEME) of social-economic profile was answered. Sex, civil status, age and who answered the questionnaire were also obtained.

Results: Female elderly were predominant (67.7%). They were almost married (56.3%), followed by widow (35.7%), single (4%), divorced (4%). 46 frailty elderly (36.6%) were younger than 69 years old; 37.8% were between 70-79 years old; 22.6% were between 80-89 years old and 3.0% were older than 90 years old. 95 frailty elderly (75%) were able to answer all the questions. The majority belonged to poor class (42.2% to poor and 18.3% to very poor); 36.6% belonged to low medium class; only 3.0% belonged to medium class; nobody belonged to rich class.

Conclusions: The low social-economic condition of frailty elderly can contribute to chronic diseases in these population, due mainly to a poor diet, inadequate access of medicines and a low quality of life.