

## ***Elderly patients admitted to the Emergency Department: A 5-year epidemiology study in Liege University Hospital Centre.***

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### Introduction

With the increase in life expectancy, aging of the population is a well known phenomenon in western countries. These elderly patients often present acute exacerbation of chronic poly-pathological conditions, representing a specific challenge for the emergency physician. The knowledge of the epidemiologic particularities of these patients could offer interesting perspective in a better understanding of the specific issues of these patients.

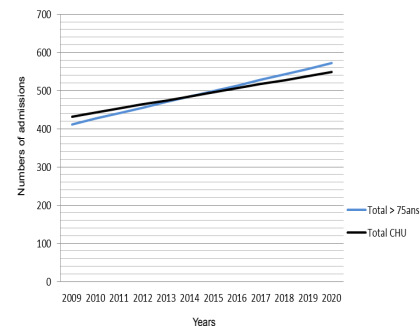
### Material and methods

This was a 6-year retrospective study including every patients > 75-year-old admitted in the emergency department (ED) of the Liege University Hospital Centre, from January 2009 to December 2014. The epidemiologic data were extracted from electronic medical data files and further analysed.

### Results

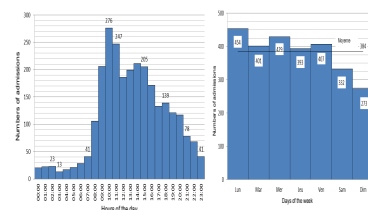
During the study period, 24564 patients > 75-year-old were admitted to our department (representing 9.8% of overall admissions). Most of these patients (82.9%) came directly from their home and 44.1% on their own initiative. Only 27.6% of these patients were referred by their general practitioner. The annual increase in the admission rate was 3.01%, while it was 2.19% for the global population (Figure 1).

*Figure 1: Evolution of admissions for people over 75 and the overall population and projection on 5 years.*



The timing of the admission reveal that elderly patients essentially consult the ED during the day and mostly during working days, as we can see on figure 2.

*Figure 2: Admission following days and hours.*



### Conclusion

We demonstrate that the increase in elderly patients' admissions in the ED is greater than the global population. Surprisingly, these patients are mainly self-referring patients, consulting at daytime during working days.

Therefore, we believe that collaboration between EDs and geriatric departments should be reinforced during this period in order to identify patients meeting weakening criteria.