

# ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN VERY OLD PATIENTS

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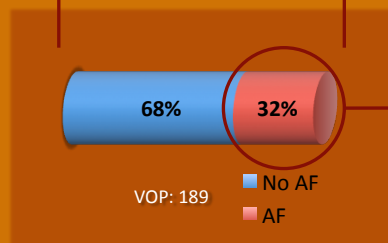
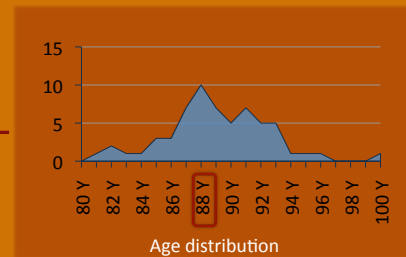
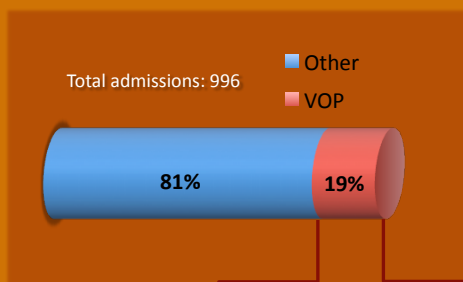
SERVIÇO: MEDICINA III

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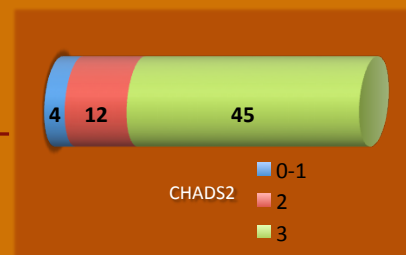
Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the arrhythmia most often observed in elderly patients and is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in this age group. Anticoagulation to reduce the thromboembolic risk is an essential part of the approach of this pathology. In this context, our aim is to assess the prevalence of AF and its treatment in very old patients admitted to our medicine ward.

We analyzed the clinical files of very old patients (VOP - very old people - age > or = life expectancy + 5 years for both sexes - 76 + 5 years for males and 82 + 5 years for females) admitted to our department from 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011. The average of in ward days and death rate was calculated. We analyzed the electrocardiograms performed at baseline and assessed outpatient medication.



- The average hospitalization was found to be 15 days.
- 9 Patients deceased - 14,75%

- Only 1 in 10 patients were treated with oral anticoagulants



The prevalence of AF in our sample is relatively high compared to that described in other epidemiological studies. Despite the higher risk of stroke in elderly patients, thromboprophylaxis in AF is suboptimal. We admit that the new oral anticoagulants, because they do not require monitoring and have less drug interactions can potentially become very useful, particularly in the elderly.