Retrospective cross-sectional study of the epidemiology of elderly patients attending the Accident & Emergency Departments in Hong Kong

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Introduction
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Objectives
To examine the epidemiology of geriatric patient visits to Accident and Emergency Departments (AED) in Hong Kong

Methodology
A retrospective cross-sectional study of geriatric patients older than 64 years old attending the AED of QMH, TMH and CMC during the year 2012, with a sample of 1,200 patient visits recruited. Descriptive characteristics of the visits were provided. Bivariate and multivariate analysis of factors associated with hospital admission was calculated

Result
Mean patient age was 79.1 years. 49.7% were male. ‘Diseases of the respiratory system’ was the commonest diagnosis in AED as well as that required admission. The admission rate was 56.8%. Bivariate analysis found that patients’ age and number of co-morbidities were positively associated with admission. Multivariate analysis demonstrated that patients who were male, with dependent activity of daily living, institutionalized, arrival by self, or with higher triage level were more likely to be admitted.