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Gerontologic public health problem of obesity in early old age

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In the last few decades, an increasing rate of morbidity and mortality from circulation diseases in early old age, resulting in an ever greater proportion of functionally disabled elderly people, has been recorded in Croatia. The gerontologic analytical survey of the overall structure of hospitalizations of the elderly in Croatia in 2011 and 2012 pointed to a significant level of hospital treatment for the rising group of circulatory system diseases. In 2011, a high rate of 62.51% of geriatric patients was recorded in the total of 83,935 hospitalizations for circulation diseases in all Croatian hospitals. In 2012, the proportion of geriatric patients increased to 63.02% of the total of 78,877 hospitalizations for circulation diseases in all Croatian hospitals. Hospitalizations of geriatric patients aged ≥ 65 accounted for a considerable proportion in the groups of endocrine, gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal system diseases with the total number of 592,872 and 567,898 hospitalizations in all Croatian hospitals in 2011 and 2012, respectively. In 2011, elderly patients accounted for 211,945 and in 2012 for 204,162 hospitalizations. The gerontologic health statistical indicator of obese patient hospitalizations (E66.0) shows their share in overall hospitalizations of patients with endocrine system diseases. In 2011, patients aged < 65 accounted for the highest share of hospitalizations for obesity ($n=183$), while the share of geriatric patients aged ≥ 65 hospitalized for obesity was lower ($n=12$). All these patients were from the 65-74 age group, whereas the share of patients aged 75-84 treated for obesity was very low. There was no deep old age patient treated for obesity, which may suggest that obese people do not live to deep old age, as noted by many scientists.

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