

ASSESSMENT OF ELDERLY PATIENTS' FALL RISK IN GERIATRIC CARE

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Abstract

One of the most important phenomena in the twenty-first century is demographic ageing. This is why demographic changes are taking place all over the world – birth rate is falling while number of older people is increasing. Lithuania is no exception. Currently, there are about 27 percent people in Lithuania who are older than 65 years and even 50-67 percent of them have been fallen. About 50 percent of patients fall at least one time per year and more than 40 percent of elderly fall more than once per year [1]. It is complicated to assess the exact prevalence of falls because of elderly' fear to lose self-sufficiency; elderly do not want to talk about it or simply cannot remember some of their falls. Thus, the assessment of fall risk and prevention for elderly patients in geriatric care should be one of the goals which would improve quality of nursing in order to prevent patients' falls. It is essential to pay more attention to elderly patients who have increased risk of fall. The aim of the studies is to assess elderly patients' fall risk in geriatric care.
