Reduced distal tubular responsiveness to fludrocortisone is noted in both elderly groups, an indication of possible under-responsiveness to endogenous mineralocorticoids. This may partially explain the predisposition of older subjects to hyperkalaemia.

**RELATION OF CHEST AND HEART SYMPTOMS TO NOCTURIA**

NKG Smith, FK Mensah, SI Perry, C Shaw, RP Assassa and the MRC Incontinence Study

Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Leicester

**Introduction**

Nocturia is common among older men and women and may be due to nocturnal polyuria, which can be treatable.

**Methods**

Postal questionnaires on urinary and bowel symptoms were sent to a random sample of men and women aged 40 and over, living in Leicestershire. 10,222 replies were received out of 14,600 eligible, a response rate of 70.0%. We explored the relation between nocturia and respiratory problems and heart problems univariately and using multi variate linear regression. Age, gender, chest symptoms, heart symptoms and general health were explored as explanatory variables for frequency of nocturia.

**Results**

19.9% of men and 20.9% women reported nocturia twice per night. 24.8% reported fair or poor general health, 17.7% reported respiratory problems, 28.2% reported heart problems. In a multivariate linear regression model of nocturia, a 10-year increase in age corresponded to an increase of 0.21 voids per night [95% CI 0.19,0.22], chest problems 0.20 [0.15,0.25], heart problems 0.18 [0.13,0.22] decrease in general health by one category 0.19 voids/night [0.17,0.21]. No relation was found with gender: females vs males: 0.01 voids/night [-0.03,0.04].

**Conclusions**

Chest and heart problems appear to be related to the frequency of nocturia; though the relationships are small in magnitude. The categories of chest and heart symptoms are general, but a sub-group of people with heart failure will be included, which may explain the relationship with nocturia.

**FACTORS WHICH DETERMINE THE IN-HOSPITAL SURVIVAL OF ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH BACTERIAEMIA**

C Liem, N H Ismail, P K Lieu and M L Ling

Ageing and Health, Department of Medicine, University of Dundee, Department of Geriatric Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore, Department of Pathology, Singapore General Hospital

**Introduction**

This study aimed to audit the appropriateness of antimicrobial therapy and to determine factors which govern the in-hospital survival of elderly patients with bacteraemia in a tertiary hospital in Singapore.

**Methods**

A consecutive series of 153 patients aged 65 years and above with clinical bacteraemia and positive blood culture results were studied.