FOC10
TREATMENT, EPIDEMIOLOGY

FOC10-1
PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOL ABUSE OR DEPENDENCE IN GENERAL POPULATION AGED 60 OR OVER
M. C. García Mahía1, A. Fernández Quintana1, and R. Mateos Alvarez2
1Psychiatry Department. University Hospital A Coruña. Spain, and 2Psychiatry Department. University Clinical Hospital, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Objectives. To study the prevalence of Abuse and Alcohol Dependence in Galician Population aged 60 years or over and its relation with other clinical and socio-demographic variables.

Methods. We present a study in two phases cross-sectional, performed on a sample of 3580 people. The sample is representative of the Galician community population greater than 60 years and stratified by Sanitary Area. Instruments used were the General Health Questionnaire (28 items version) with a cut-off point of 10/11 in the first phase and Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS-III) in the second phase, among others. Diagnoses related to alcohol consumption and their sociodemographic correlates and self-perception of disease are discussed.

Results. The prevalence of alcohol abuse or dependence was 1.4% in the sample studied, with higher prevalence in men, especially in the group of 66-75 years. The analysis of socio-demographic variables show that most disadvantaged social classes present the highest prevalence of Abuse and Dependence of Alcohol, as well as single and widowed with statistical significance. People included in the sample present low self-perception of illness with low help-seeking behavior.

Conclusions. Although the prevalence of Alcohol Abuse and Dependence in the elderly is not very high in Galician population over 60 years, it is necessary to diagnose and treat people affected properly due to the high rates of comorbidity and physical health impact of excessive drinking in old age.