

Years lived with disability of osteoarthritis in Monastir-Tunisia, 2002–2013

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Introduction

Osteoarthritis is a chronic disease which affects the quality of life required hospitalization in severe cases. However, the burden of this disease is not well known in Tunisia.

We aimed to determine the years lived with disability of hospitalized cases of osteoarthritis in the region of Monastir during 12 years.

Methods

We have included all hospitalizations for osteoarthritis (using ICD-10) at the university hospital of Monastir between 2002 and 2013. Enrolled patients were residents of Monastir. Data were collected from the regional register of hospital morbidity and mortality implemented at the Department of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology. The burden is measured in Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) which is the sum of YLDs (years lived with disability) and YLLs (years of life lost).

Results

- During the period of 12 years, 275 hospitalizations for osteoarthritis were recorded among people aged more than 65 years,
- female predominance (sex ratio 0.52).
- No lethality was noted.
- The median length of stay was 9 days.

Table 1: The estimation of YLDs of osteoarthritis in patients aged 65 years old and over in university hospital of Monastir (2002-2013) .

	YLDs/ 100 000*
Age≥65 years	6.80
Male	4.96
Female	8.45

*YLDs: the sum of YLDs and YLLs.

The estimation of YLDs was 6.80/100000 inhabitants. YLDs was 4.96/100000 inhabitants for men against 8.45/100000 inhabitants in women.

Conclusion

The osteoarthritis is the commonest joint disease worldwide and mainly occurs in later life. It tends to be slowly progressive and can cause significant pain and disability. Symptoms and radiographic changes are poorly correlated and thus defining it for research purposes is challenging. Established risk factors include obesity, local trauma and occupation.

The burden of osteoarthritis is important to know among hospitalized patients, but the methodological issues within this study make it highly likely that the real burden of osteoarthritis has been underestimated since we included only hospitalized cases.