

Fractures in elderly – the ongoing pandemic**Guest Editor Dr. Anze Kristan**

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All over the world the number of elderly people is rising, by that the need of the society to have independent and active older population is getting very important. With aging the number of (fragility) fractures is becoming enormous burden to health systems. The goal of treatment is not just surviving after the injury (fracture) but to stay active as well. In treating old patients with fracture, we are facing numerous problems. The quality of bone is impaired by osteoporosis which influence not just probability of the fractures but also treatment. Special considerations are needed when choosing the right mode of treatment. Because of functionally less demanding population more fractures are treated non operatively comparing to general population (proximal humerus, distal radius). When choosing surgery, we must consider the type of operation (replacement versus osteosynthesis), the right type of implant (cemented prosthesis, locking plates) and suitable technique of osteosynthesis. Second group of problems represents the fact that many elderly patients were operated before and have permanent bone implants and new fractures are related to that (periprosthetic fractures), what brings new set of technical problems treating these fractures. Elderly patients are frail and must be treated with a great awareness of their general health risks when preparing them for surgery which cannot be excessively postponed but on the other hand the patient must be optimally prepared. The aftertreatment of elderly patients with fractures must start immediately after the procedure what can be challenging because they are frail and not able to protect their injured limb. Above listed problems led to developing of a new multidisciplinary approach for treating elderly patients with fractures – Orthogeriatric.

The purpose of this special issue of Signe Vitae is to introduce the view of orthopaedic trauma surgeons on problems in geriatric population fracture management to our co-workers from different field of medicine. Only with mutual understanding of the treatment principles we can face the challenges of ongoing pandemic of fractures in geriatric population.

Key words: elderly patients, fragility fractures, mobility, osteosynthesis, joints replacement, periprosthetic fractures, multidisciplinary approach

Submission Deadline: 30 April 2022

Online Submission System: <https://js.signavitae.com/ch/author/login.aspx>

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**Signa Vitae**

Impact Factor: 0.338

Print ISSN: 1334-5605

Online ISSN: 1845-206X

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www.signavitae.com

Scopus Preview

