

Preface for the Special Issue of Regression Models in Gerontology

In collaboration with Scientific & Academic Publishing (SAP), it was organized a research topic entitled “Regression Models in Gerontology” hosted by Maria Helena Pestana and Gorete Reis. Three papers were selected on this subject considering the scope and purpose of this special edition, covering a variety of real-world applications.

The first paper “Mental Illness of the Oldest, Nutritional Status and Arterial Hypertension” applied categorical models for contingency tables and logistic regression models to evaluate the effects of changes in nutritional status and high blood pressure in preventing morbidity and mortality risks in the elderly with mental disorders. It is a cross-sectional, descriptive and correlational study over a sample of elderly involved in a psychiatric emergency episode. The results show multiple pathologies, cognitive deficits and changes in body mass index associated with several co morbidities, co-existing with a temporal disorientation and arterial hypertension. The authors recommended the intervention of different health professionals at earlier stages of the life cycle.

The second paper “Predictive Study of Psychological Variables Impact in Family Caregivers of Patients with Alzheimer” applied multiple regression analysis to explain the psychological variables with an impact on adult-children caregivers of patients with Alzheimer. The sample was selected in a hospital context in collaboration with the medical assistants who informed about the diagnosis and stages of the disease. The results show that the nature of the relationship plays an important role in providing care. Females, premorbid relationship patterns and problematic behaviors are psychological vulnerability factors, associated with higher levels of depression, stress and anxiety. The authors recommended the importance of social support in maintaining the mental health of the caregivers.

The latest paper “Mental Illness and Comorbidities, Aspects of Initial Evaluation” applied categorical models of contingency tables and logistic regression models to explain the socio-demographic, clinical and functional characteristics of older people that had had an emergency episode in a psychiatric hospital. It is a cross-sectional, descriptive and correlational study over a sample of elderly people diagnosed with dementia, other organic disorders and depression. The results show that people with a diagnosis of dementia have more associated cognitive and functional impairment than other mental illnesses. The authors recommended a higher quality of care in later age with the necessary cooperation between health systems, considering the life history, internment experience and the understanding of stigmas.

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