

M34 What do intensive care nurses and physicians think of the older patient in their unit (and are they right)?

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Abstract title	What do intensive care nurses and physicians think of the older patient in their unit (and are they right)?
Abstract body	<p>Purpose: The increasing number of older patients admitted to the ICU is often at the center of debate in daily practice. Whether ICU clinicians tend to discriminate older patients is unknown.</p> <p>Methods: Clinicians from 68 ICUs in 12 European countries and the USA completed daily a questionnaire about the appropriateness of care during a 28 day period. We compared the cumulative incidence of patients with concordant perceptions of excessive care (cPECs), treatment limitation decisions (TLDs) and death at one year across subgroups via Cox-regression (accounting for competing risk) and Fisher-exact tests, respectively. To adjust for differences in ICU and patient characteristics, we used inverse probability weighting.</p> <p>Results: Of 1641 patients admitted during the study period, 405 (25%) were ≥ 75 years. The cumulative incidence of patients with concordant PECs was significantly higher in patients ≥ 75 years than in patients < 75 years (13.6 % vs. 8.5 %, p-value < 0.001). We found no evidence for a difference in risk of death (HR 1.14, 95%CI 0.79-1.65) and TLDs (HR 1.22, 95%CI 0.69-2.17) between older and younger patients with concordant PECs. In patients without concordant PECs, we found evidence for a difference in risk of death (HR 1.48, 95%CI 1.20-1.83) and TLDs (HR 2.59, 95%CI 1.71-3.39), though TLDs were mostly installed already before ICU admission.</p> <p>Conclusions: Although the higher incidence of concordant PECs in older patients may suggest stigmatization, the absence of a higher risk of TLDs and death in patients with concordant PECs makes discrimination of older patients by ICU clinicians unlikely.</p>