

ELDERLY PEOPLE AT THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: STUDY FROM A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN BANGLADESH

Dr. Saleh Muhammad Ali

Senior Consultant (Medicine)

250 Bedded General Hospital, Pabna

Ali SM, Hasan AMS, Alam MM, Haque MN, Arefin MT

Background

- “Old age is a disease that you die from” – German proverb
- The proportion of elderly population increasing globally
- Very little information available on the elderly patients at the Emergency Department (ED) in Bangladesh
- This study carried out to assess the pattern of elderly patients (≥ 65) who visited the ED of 250 Bedded General Hospital, Pabna (PGH)

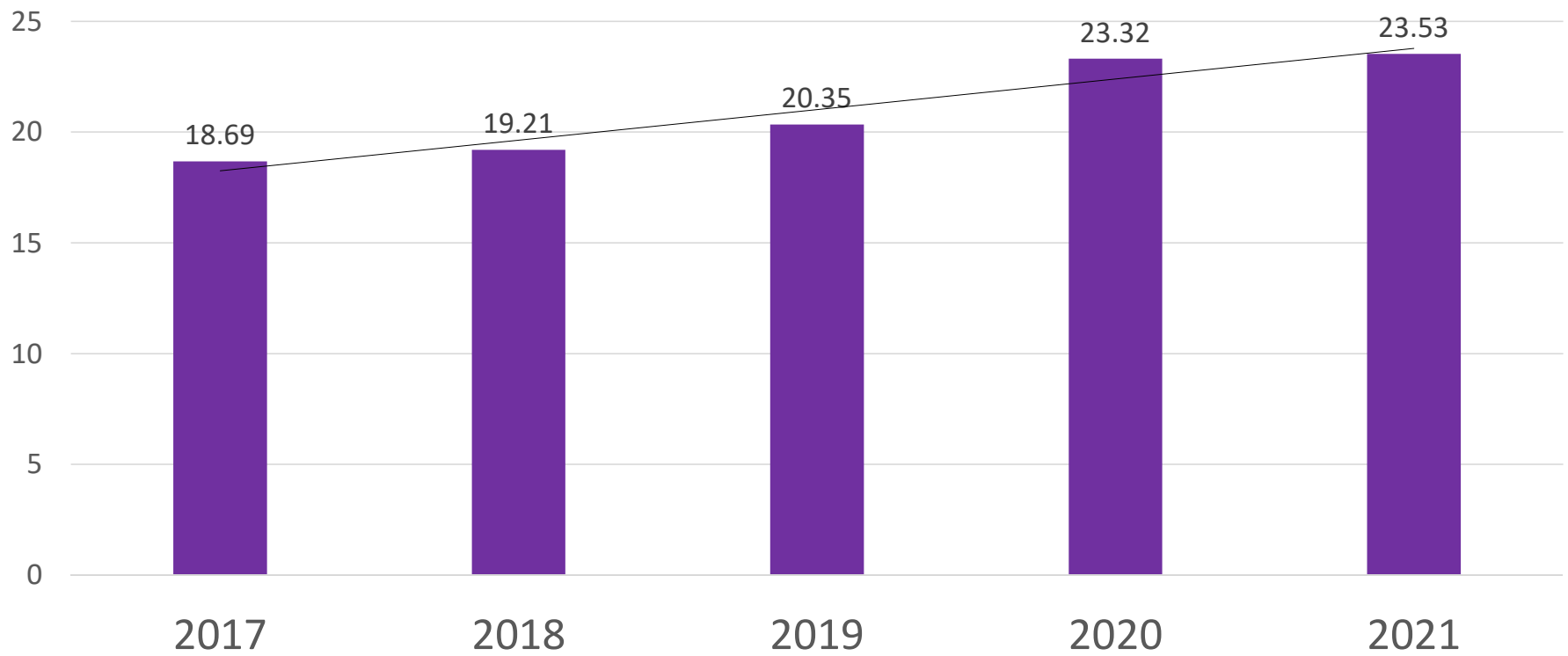
Objectives

- To provide demographic information of the elderly people attending the ED of PGH
- To determine the prevalence of elderly patients seen in the ED
- To assess the clinical outcome of the elderly individuals who visited the ED

Methods

- Retrospective observational study
- Patients aged ≥ 65 years
- From January 2017 through December 2021
- Patients' demographic data, symptoms, diagnoses and outcome
- Statistical analyses done using SPSS version 23
- Ethical approval by ERC of PGH

Results

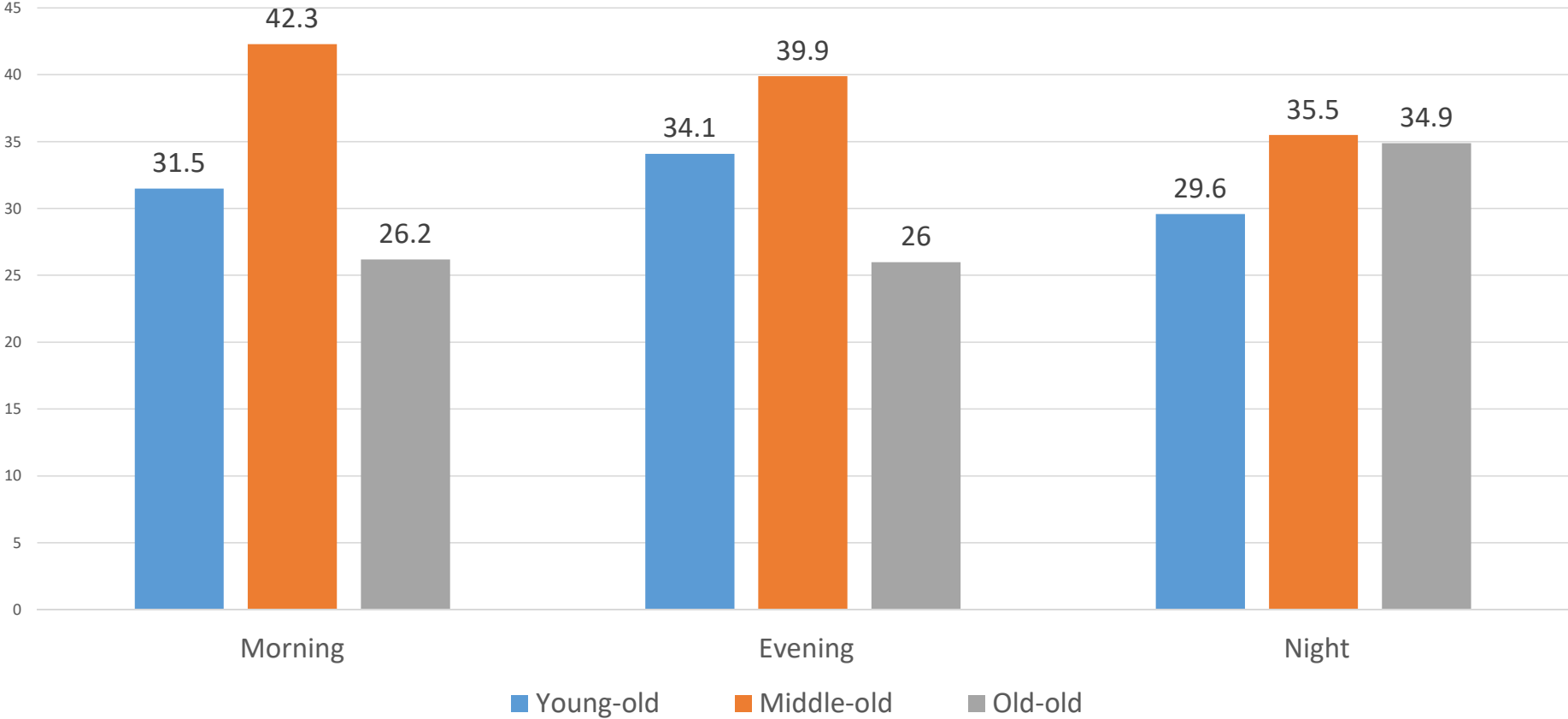


Trends of visit of Elderly people at ED from 2017 to 2021

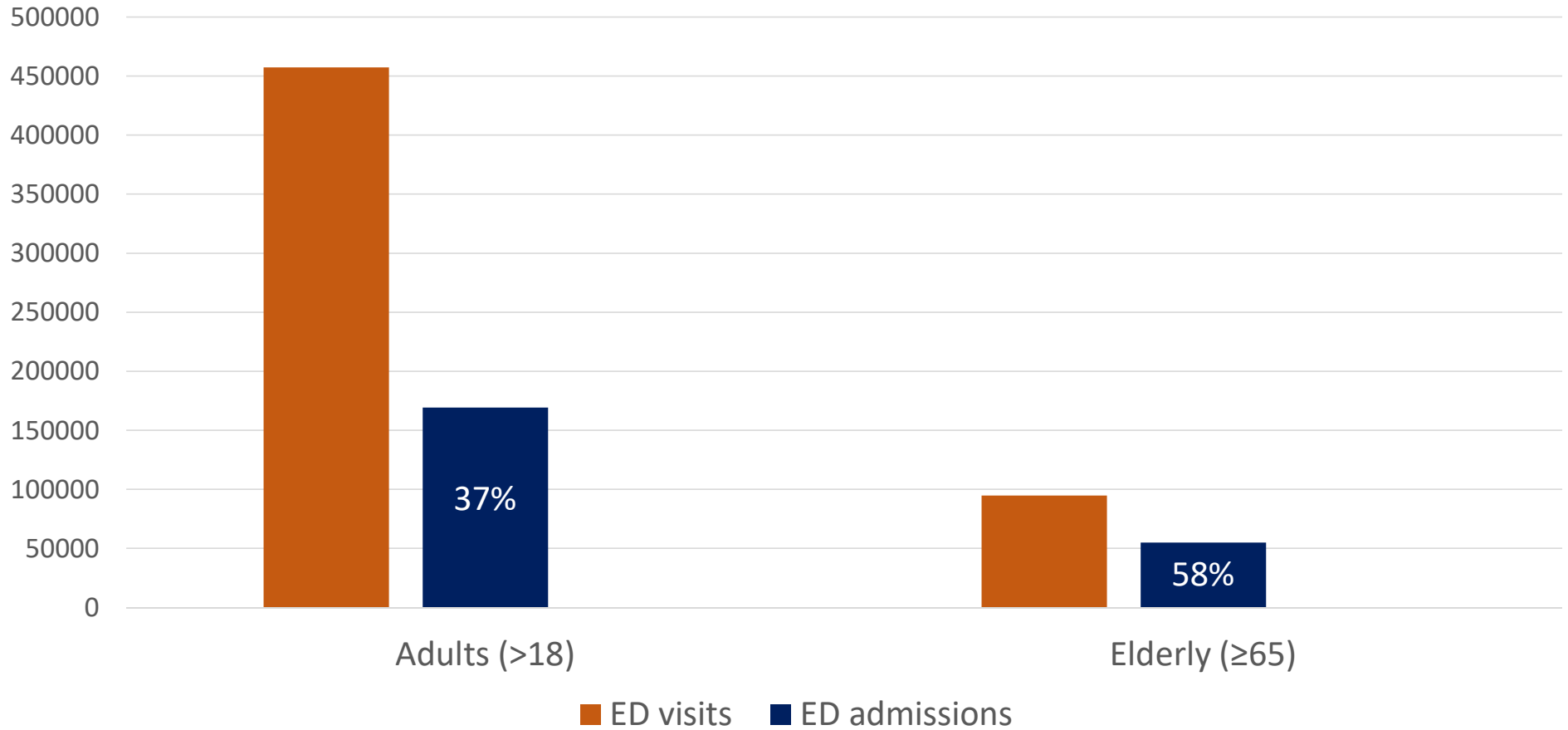
Emergency visit by elderly patients

	Young-old (65 – 74) (n = 52,814)	Middle-old (75 – 84) (n = 36,871)	Old-old (\geq 85) (n = 5,220)	Total (n = 94,905)
Male	46.9%	44.8%	37.8%	45.6%
Female	53.1%	55.2%	62.2%	54.4%
Total	55.6%	38.9%	5.5%	100

ED visit time: shifts



Comparison between young adults and elderly patients



Level of consciousness: ED visit

	Young old (52,814)	Middle old (36,871)	Old old (5,220)	Total (94,905)
Alert	93.0	88.9	79.3	90.7
RTV	3.1	4.1	6.8	3.7
RTP	2.4	3.0	5.9	2.8
NR	1.5	4.0	8.0	2.8

Level of consciousness: ED admission

	Young old (29,951)	Middle old (21,536)	Old old (3,558)	Total (55,045)
Alert	89.5	84.6	73.8	86.6
RTV	4.6	4.9	8.2	4.9
RTP	3.6	4.4	7.5	4.2
NR	2.3	6.1	10.5	4.3

Duration of symptoms

	Young old (52,814)	Middle old (36,871)	Old old (5,220)	Total (94,905)
< 24 hours	42.5	41.6	39.8	42.0
1-7 days	29.1	28.5	30.3	28.9
1-4 weeks	16.9	15.5	13.5	16.1
> 1 months	7.9	6.4	6.6	7.3
Other	3.7	8.0	9.8	5.7

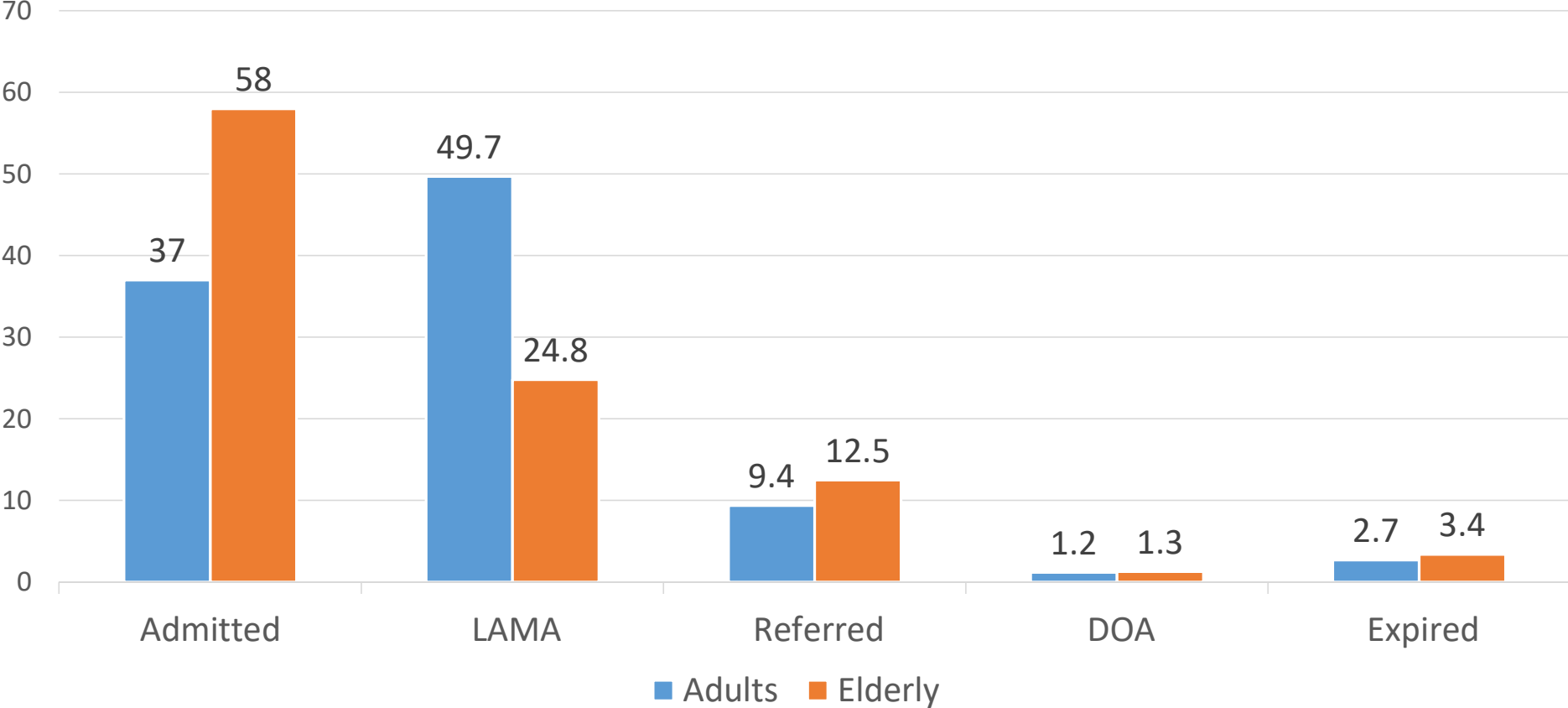
Most common presenting symptoms

	Young old (29,951)		Middle old (21,536)		Old old (3,558)		Total (55,045)	
1	Dizziness	11.1	Dyspnoea	12.5	Dyspnoea	13.8	Dyspnoea	9.9
2	Dyspnoea	7.6	Fever	8.3	Dizziness	8.7	Dizziness	9.0
3	Abdominal pain	5.8	Dizziness	6.2	Abdominal pain	7.8	Abdominal pain	5.3
4	Fever	5.5	Abdominal pain	4.1	Fever	5.5	Fever	4.9
5	Chest pain	5.3	Cough	3.9	Dysuria	3.2	Chest pain	4.5
6	Headache	3.6	Chest pain	3.8	Syncope	2.3	Dysuria	3.4
7	Dysuria	3.3	Dysuria	3.5	Headache	2.0	Cough	3.2
8	Cough	2.9	Vomiting	3.3	Cough	1.9	Headache	2.9
9	Vomiting	2.2	Syncope	2.7	Fall	1.8	Vomiting	2.6
10	Arthritis	2.0	Asthenia	2.6	Disorientation	1.8	Syncope	2.1
Sum		49.3		50.9		48.8		47.8

Most common Diagnoses

	Young old (29,951)		Middle old (21,536)		Old old (3,558)		Total (55,045)	
1	Stroke/TIA	8.2	RTI	9.9	HF	9.4	RTI	7.8
2	COPD/BA	7.4	HF	8.1	Stroke/TIA	8.9	Stroke/TIA	7.6
3	HF	6.7	Stroke/TIA	6.9	RTI	8.8	HF	7.4
4	RTI	6.2	AGE	5.9	Sepsis	7.7	COPD/BA	6.6
5	ACS	6.0	COPD/BA	5.8	ACS	6.5	AGE	5.8
6	AGE	5.9	ACS	5.3	AGE	4.8	ACS	5.7
7	UTI	4.4	UTI	4.7	COPD/BA	4.7	UTI	4.5
8	Sepsis	3.9	DM comp	3.6	UTI	4.4	Sepsis	3.6
9	PUO	3.2	Sepsis	2.6	Cellulitis	2.8	DM comp	3.2
10	DM plus	3.0	Malignancy	2.5	Malignancy	2.4	PUO	2.8
Sum		54.9		55.3		60.4		55.0

Disposal from ED



Conclusion

- Constituted 20.7% of emergency attendance but 32.5% of admissions
- Significant difference from younger adults in presentation and outcome
 - More frequent visits
 - More urgent diseases
 - Less favourable outcome
- Better understanding will help doctors provide better management