

TITLE: HEALTH CONDITION AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF ELDERLY PERSONS IN A LONG PERMANENCE INSTITUTION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARRIER OF *Staphylococcus aureus*

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ABSTRACT:

Aging can reduce physical, psychological and social functions by reducing functional capacity, putting at risk the quality of life of the elderly. In general, diseases of the elderly are chronic, persist for years, require follow-up and permanent care, medication, periodic examinations, institutionalization, and microorganisms such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, although it may be part of the human microbiota, may produce opportunistic infections in this population because they are inserted in a place of easy dissemination by the direct contact with each other. The objective of the study was to describe the health condition and quality of life of the elderly in a Long Stay Institution for the Elderly (LSIE) and its relation with the *S. aureus* carrier. A transversal, quantitative, descriptive and analytical study was carried out. Socio-demographic Questionnaire, Quality of Life Assessment (SF 36), and Functional Capacity Assessment (Katz Index) were applied. To evaluate the colonization by *S. aureus* were collected nasal mucosa material and microbiological tests for characterization of the species, resistance, in addition to the molecular tests for detection of the *mecA* and Panton Valentine leukocidin (PVL) gene. Twenty-two elderly people were evaluated, 50% were 71-80 years old, male residents lived less than 5 years in the institution (88.9%), while women lived more than 10 years (38.4%). Half of the elderly were classified as having an intermediate degree of dependence to perform daily life activities and 45.5% with total dependence. In the evaluation of the quality of life the results were not satisfactory for functional capacity, physical and emotional aspects. Half of the interviewees were nasal carriers of *S. aureus*. The elderly colonized by MRSA (18.2%) were classified as totally dependent and the samples were resistant to other drugs, and no positive PVL sample was isolated. The majority of the elderly have advanced age, high dependence, significant index of interference in the quality of life, functional capacity and emotional aspects and expressive colonization by *S. aureus*, with multiresistant profile. It is suggested that LSIE adopt measures to control and prevent colonization of this microorganism to prevent possible infections, to enable care workers for these elderly people, and to include in their routine activities for the maintenance of physical and mental health.

Keywords: Elderly; Quality of life; *Staphylococcus aureus*; MRSA.

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