

## Investigation of Epidemiological Characteristics of Patients over Age 65 with Covid-19 in a City

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### Background:

The population aged  $\geq 65$  is important because of the higher mortality rate and a riskier clinical course of COVID-19 in this patient group. This study aimed to examine the epidemiological characteristics, clinical conditions and factors affecting the clinical status of patients over 65 with COVID-19 in the Bingol province.

### Methods:

Study was conducted between March and December 2020 in the Bingol province using the data of 3,521 patients over age 65 who were positive for SARS-CoV-2 as per RT-PCR results. The study commenced after obtaining necessary institutional permissions and the ethics committee approval. In the study, independent variables were age, gender, presence of chronic

diseases whereas dependent variables were mortality status, presence of pneumonia. Chi-square test and binominal logistic regression analysis were used for statistical analysis. In all evaluations,  $p < 0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:**

The median age of the patients participating in the study was 72(65-102) and the case fatality rate was 2%. The mortality rates were significantly higher in patients aged between 75-84 and those aged  $>85$  as well as patients who had a chronic disease, diabetes and ischemic heart disease compared to the other groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). According to the regression analysis, mortality rate was 2.6-fold higher in males than in females and 24.3-fold higher in patients with pneumonia than in those without pneumonia ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:**

Among the patients in the study group, mortality rate was found to be higher in males, those in the advanced age group and those with pneumonia and chronic diseases. Therefore, if possible, patients with these characteristics should be followed more closely in a hospital setting during the pandemic.

**Key messages:**

- Mortality rates are higher in patients with COVID-19 who have a chronic disease, diabetes or ischemic heart disease.
- Age, gender and presence of pneumonia are among the important factors in the course of COVID-19.