

INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF COVID-19 IN NURSING HOME. RESULTS FROM THE SENIOR COHORT.

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Objective: Since the beginning of the pandemic, nursing homes have been severely affected with a significant number of infections and deaths. Particularly because of the difficulty in accessing nursing homes during the pandemic, few studies have examined the factors associated with the incidence of Covid-19 in these settings. To investigate the relation between frailty, nutritional status, muscle strength and the Covid-19 incidence and severity among nursing home residents.

Methods: In the SENIOR (Sample of Elderly Nursing Home Individuals: An Observational Research) cohort, frailty, nutritional status and muscle strength were assessed according to Fried's criteria, Mini Nutritional Assessment and grip strength, respectively, during the last two years of follow-up (i.e., 2018-2019). Covid-19 data were collected retrospectively from participants' medical records in 2022. Logistic regressions, adjusted for covariates, were performed to assess the potential association between these three geriatric conditions and Covid-19.

Results: 191 participants of the SENIOR cohort were still alive at the beginning of the pandemic, of these 116 were excluded from this study due to insufficient data (59.7%) and lost of follow-up (1%). In total, 75 participants were included with a mean age of 87 ± 9.93 years and a proportion of 74.7% women. Among them, 42 older people were tested positive for Covid-19 and 18 experienced severe symptoms or died from it. No association between frailty, nutritional status, grip strength and the Covid-19 incidence and severity was highlighted.

Conclusion: No variable was significantly associated with the incidence of Covid-19 in nursing homes. The findings of our investigation must be considered with great caution due to some methodological limitations (i.e., small sample size, specific population, missing confounding variable). Further research is needed to clarify the role of these factors in the context of Covid-19.