

Do French GPs take care of pain?

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Objective

Assessing the part of painful diagnoses and symptoms among the pathologies presented by patients consulting French GPs.

Method

Retrospective study in 2004.

We analysed pathology data collected ongoing and in real time by a GP network for all patients and every consultation and home visit in 2004. The diagnoses and symptoms were recorded with inclusion and exclusion criteria reflecting the clinical situation during consultation.

We selected the criteria associated with or containing a pain notion (pain criteria). We included in our study all the painful situations assessed by the existence in the medical record of one or more pain criteria. 119 different standardised pathological situations were associated with pain.

Results

72 GP

104,913 patients

301,927 consultations

At least one painful pathology was found in 125,326 consultations (41.5%).

19,854 consultations (15.8%) presented 2 or more painful diagnoses.

Discussions

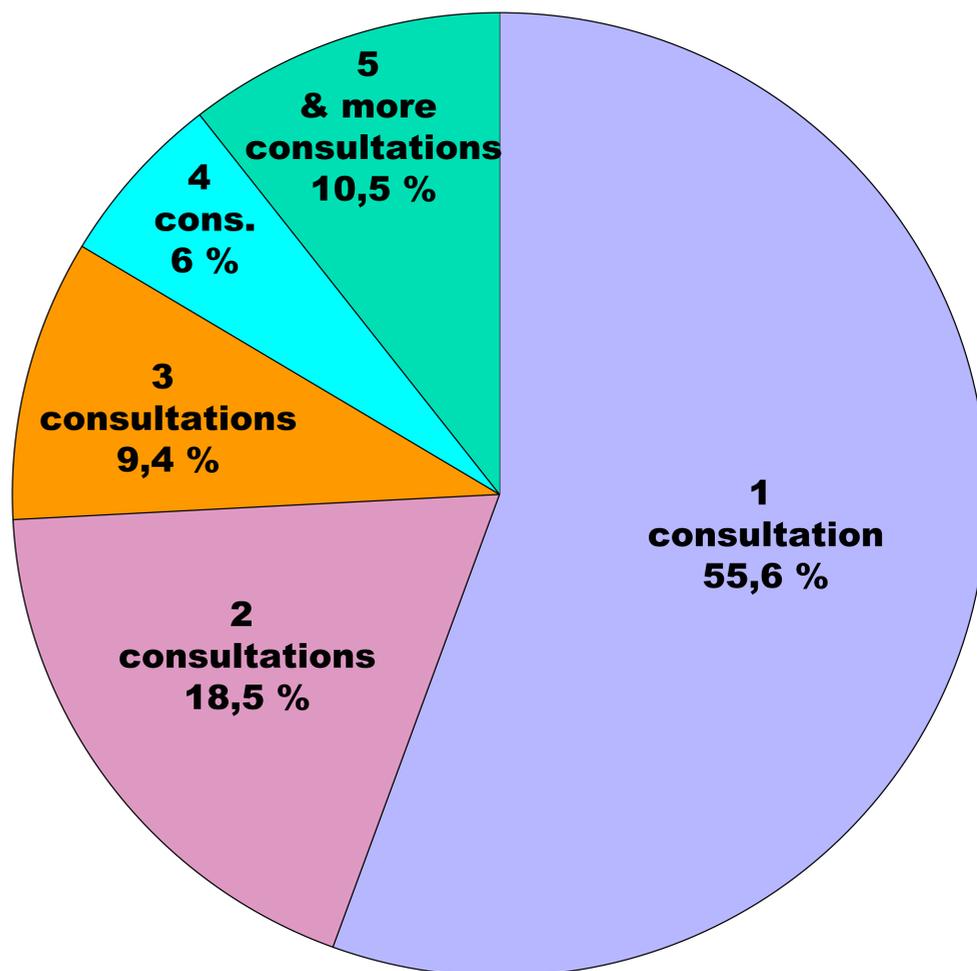
Those figures probably reflect a minimal estimation they are based on the positive assessment of the GP and GPs are liable to omit the checking of pain criteria in the eMR in some situations (polypathologies, lack of time...) some criteria were difficult to classify (painful or non painful), so the classification must be refined.

Conclusions

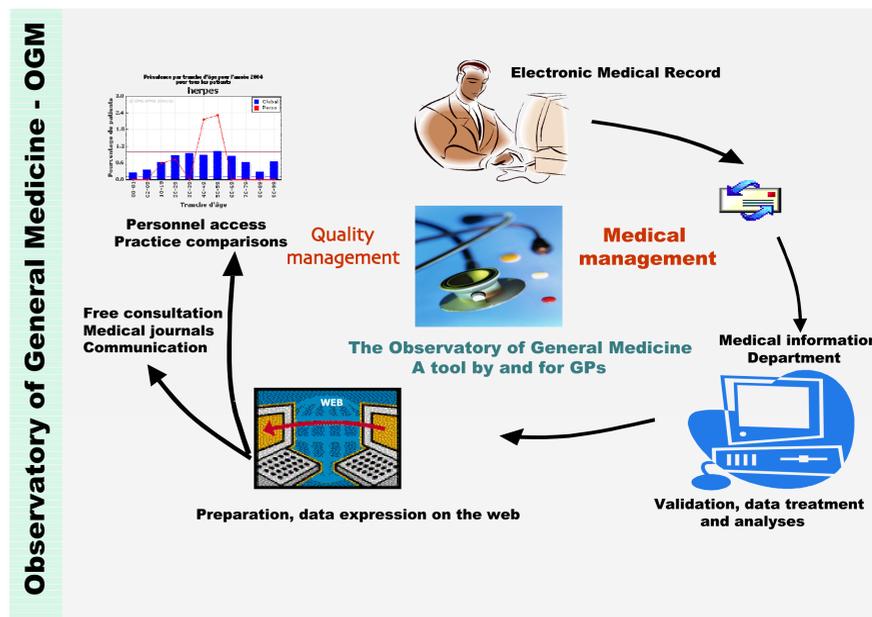
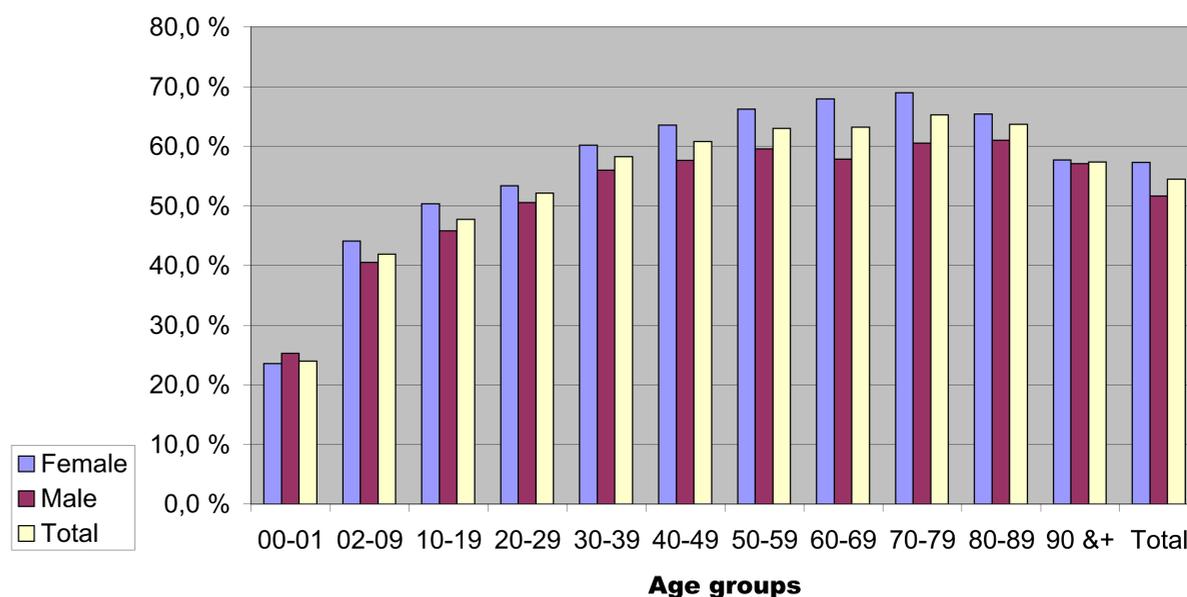
Diagnoses with pain components can be found in more than 40% of consultations, and half the patients taken care of in 2004 suffered at least once from pain.

Pain treatment is a major issue for French GPs.

Percentage of patients by number of consultation for pain in 2004



Patients consulting at least once a year for a painful issue
Percentage by gender and age groups



For further information:
Please contact d.duhot@sfgm.org
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SFMG thanks all GPs and patients
anonymously participating to the
OGM for supplying their practice data.