

In his work, the author introduces the reader to the problems of gerontology as seen from the perspective of primary care. He describes the manifold areas where the general practitioner encounters elderly patients. He stresses the risks and pitfalls associated with the conducting of preoperative investigations in the elderly. He also describes the possibilities of pharmacotherapy in advanced age.

The author employed the method of retrospective data collection from surgeries to investigate the cost associated with health care consumption by the elderly in two areas in terms of medical procedures by general practitioners for the elderly (preventative checkups, vaccinations, home visits and other) and in terms of cost associated with the prescription of medicinal preparations to the elderly. He found that the anticipated cost as set by the public health-care insurance for consumption of procedures for the elderly is sufficient, while the real expenses for pharmacotherapy are much higher than those set by the public health-care insurance. The author provides his analysis of the possible causes of this situation.

The author continues with a description of his scientific research done as part of preventive activity in the surgery for obesitology, as carried out by general practitioner. His statistical evaluation led to the conclusion that the risk factor for the metabolic syndrome microalbuminuria in obese elderly women, decreases with reduced girth circumference more than in younger women. There are only a small number of contributions dealing with this issue world-wide, making these first results rather interesting, also from the viewpoint of possible future research.