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Descriptive study of inpatient in a palliative care centre of hospital complex of pontevedra

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Background & Aim: The primary objective of this study was to describe the main characteristics of inpatient in a palliative care centre of Hospital complex of Pontevedra (CHOPO).

Method: This is a descriptive study of prevalence to evaluate inpatient in a palliative care centre of Hospital complex of Pontevedra. All patients's information who were admitted in centre since January 1st ,2014 to December 31th,2014 have been analysed, using a template that was developed ad hoc and it was filled out by the researchers. The information were analysed by SPSS 19.

Results: 128 patients, out of which only 2% remains alive, were analyzed. Most of the admissions were male (68%) and over 65 years (76%), the duration was of a day or less. A 18% admitted two or three times in other services in the last 12 months and 13% had previously been treated in outpatient visits of palliative care. 80% required sedation. Most of these admissions came from Emergency department (35%), HADO (25%), Oncology (10%), primary care (10%). Only 8% die at home. Only 5% of patients were encoded in primary care.

Conclusions: The profile of patients admitted to the palliative care centre is a patient with very serious prognosis and / or very poorly controlled symptoms. It shows an ignorance of what is a situation of palliative care by primary care, because it shows that the patients are not encrypted and also the number of direct derivations is minimal. As in other hospital services the referral to the palliative care centre is getting late and in a situation of 'last days' even exist previous admissions in the last year or in the case of oncology patients or with advanced chronic illness.