

A European Research Agenda for Geriatric Emergency Medicine: A Modified Delphi Study

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

geriatric emergency medicine

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Asia - Turkey; Europe - Austria; Europe - Belgium; Europe - Bosnia Herzegovina; Europe - Croatia; Europe - Cyprus; Europe - Czech Republic; Europe - Denmark; Europe - Finland; Europe - France; Europe - Germany; Europe - Iceland; Europe - Ireland; Europe - Italy; Europe - Netherlands; Europe - Norway; Europe - Poland; Europe - Portugal; Europe - Romania; Europe - Slovakia; Europe - Slovenia; Europe - Spain; Europe - Sweden; Europe - Switzerland; Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

Geriatric Emergency Medicine (GEM) focuses on delivering optimal care to (sub)acutely ill older people. This involves a multidisciplinary approach throughout the whole healthcare chain. However, the underpinning evidence base is weak and it is unclear which research questions have the highest priority.

What was the objective?

to provide an inventory and prioritization of research questions among geriatric emergency medicine (GEM) professionals throughout Europe

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

May 2018 - June 2019

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants: "When reflecting on your clinical practice in the field of Geriatric Emergency Medicine, which questions with the aim of improving the emergency care for acutely ill older people should be addressed in future research?", 233 potential research questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: resulting in 61 questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: survey asking: "When reflecting on your clinical practice in the field of Geriatric Emergency Medicine, how important are the following questions to you in terms of need for future research?", respondents were asked to rate importance each research question

Which stakeholders took part?

Emergency physicians, geriatricians, geriatric nurses, researchers, physiotherapists. Delphi round 1: 145 participants. Delphi round 2: 176 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The first online survey was published and distributed among all members of EUSEM and EuGMS throughout all European countries by email.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.