

## INCIDENCE OF FEMUR FRACTURES IN THE VENETIAN ASL IN YEAR 2003

A. Bonazza, R. Mameli, S. Gravili, A. Bonazza<sup>1</sup>

*Nuclear Medicine Department, Osteoporosis Diagnosis & Therapy Center,  
"SS. Giovanni e Paolo" Hospital of Venice, Italy*

<sup>1</sup> *General Hospital, Imaging, Venice, Italy*

To assess femur fracture incidence in year 2003 in two Italian cities, Venice and Mestre (very different one from each other although ruled by the same health administration) and compare it with the Italian one. Venice is a huge pedestrian zone, people are forced to walk for most of their daily activities but, on the other side, bridges, stairs, etc. increase the risk of falls. Mestre is a "normal" 21<sup>st</sup> century town. Therefore, lifestyles are partly different and this could affect the impact of osteoporosis and related fractures.

Data for neck femur fracture (ICD9CM codes 820..) in year 2003, for Mestre and Venice Hospitals, were obtained. Italy population data were obtained from the 2001 General Censorship while those for the two cities from the Venice City Hall 2003 database.

Femur fracture incidence x 1000 inhabitants in 2003 was: for males (M) 0.9, both in Venice (VE) and Mestre (Me), for females (F) 3 in VE and 2.6 in Me. Overall Italian figure is 1.34. Over 65 y.: M 3.7 in VE and 3.5 in Me, F 9.1 in VE and 9.0 in Me. Dividing the over 65 population in 5 yr intervals results in evident differences between VE and Me only for > 90 people.

Even if incomplete, these data suggest that: (1) in both cities, the mean age, and consequently the incidence of femur fracture, is higher than the Italian one; (2) femur fracture is very uncommon before the age of 65 and uncommon until the age of 80; (3) a difference in femur fracture incidence between the two cities can be appreciated only over the age of 90, with a higher incidence in Mestre. This difference could reflect the differences in elderly people lifestyles in the two cities.