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Introduction: Late-unset dementia is one of age-related co-morbidities. Dementia could be overlapped or/and masked by other chronic conditions. The aim of the study was to compare the pattern of co-morbidities, biochemical tests and geriatric assessment in dementia and not-dementia geriatric patients.

Methods: Study of 353 older patients discharged between 2016 and 2018 from geriatric ward was carried out. Diagnoses were made in accordance to ICD-10 criteria following clinical diagnostic procedures supported by hospital records, blood samples and comprehensive geriatric assessment. The list of the most common chronic conditions was registered and compared between dementia and not dementia patients.

Results: The dementia was diagnosed in 147 (41.6%) of the patients. The dementia group differed from non-dementia group with age (88 ±4.4 vs 80.9±6.8 p<0.01), but not gender, number of co-morbidities measured with Charlson Index (9.0 ± 2.8 vs 7.4 ± 2.9; p <0.001). Significantly lower serum levels of vitamins D3 and B12 were observed in patients with dementia. Moreover the physical disability measured with the Timed Up & Go test was significantly worse in dementia group. The prevalence of parkinsonism, delirium, atrial fibrillation, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases was higher in dementia group. Not-dementia patients had significantly more prevalent hypertension (76% vs 59%), arthritis (65% vs 46%), and diabetes mellitus (40% vs 30%). The independent risk factors for dementia was delirium and parkinsonism diagnosis, advanced age, lower BMI factor, lower serum levels of vitamin D3, worse score in Barthel index test and higher Charlson Comorbidity Index. Patients with dementia lived shorter than patients without dementia, but in 2-year follow-up observation dementia was not an independent risk factor for death.

Key conclusions: Geriatric patients with dementia were more co-morbid and more disabled than others. The pattern of co-morbidities differed in compared groups of the patients.