Special Issue

Cardiovascular Disease in the Elderly: Prevention and Diagnosis

Message from the Guest Editors

Cardiovascular diseases remain the most important cause of death in the elderly population. There is an increased prevalence of cardiovascular diseases in older people due to the addition of new risk factors, such as physiological changes in the cardiovascular system with aging, frailty and sarcopenic obesity; the impact of the unfavorable evolution of the concomitant chronic diseases; polypharmacy; and iatrogeny. The elimination of cardiovascular risk factors has greater effects in the elderly than in other age groups. The symptoms and clinical examination could be atypical compared to the classic ones, or they could be replaced by symptoms borrowed from other concomitant diseases (ulcer, pancreatitis, pleuritis, equivalents of dyspnea) or even be absent. This is why the diagnosis of the main cardiovascular problems in the elderly can easily be overlooked or overused. Investigations that would provide a good starting point in the diagnosis of these conditions are ECG and Holter ECG monitoring, which allow us to record potential episodes of silent ischemia, as well as heart rate variability and echocardiography.

Guest Editors

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