

“Grandpa, Grandpa, Are You Alright?” EMS and the Elder Patient

presented by

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Each year, the population we serve grows older. In most of our communities, it is the elderly patient who is the most frequent user of the EMS system. The complications of the aging process, multiple diagnoses, multiple medications, and a host of other factors make our elderly patients among the most challenging we will ever see. Equally important is our attitude towards our older patients, and how it can help or hinder us in rendering emergency medical care. This presentation will explore both the medical and personal side of providing care for the elderly patient, including an opportunity see what it feels like to be elderly in today's youth-focused society

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this presentation, the student will be able to:

- 1) Describe the physiological changes occurring as a part of the aging process
- 2) Discuss psychological and social changes affecting the health of the elder patient
- 3) Recognize how provider attitude can play an important role in the care of the older patient
- 4) Demonstrate assessment techniques specific to the evaluation of the elder patient
- 5) List common Trauma and Medical emergencies often encountered with the elder patient, and describe appropriate treatment methodologies
- 6) Discuss current social issues which may affect the health of the older patient

OUTLINE

00:00 – 00:05 Introduction
00:05 – 00:20 The physiology of aging
00:20 – 00:30 Practical exercise
00:30 – 00:40 Assessment techniques for the elder patient
00:40 – 00:55 Trauma in the elderly
00:55 – 01:10 Medical problems in the elderly
01:10 – 01:15 Pharmacological issues
01:15 – 01:25 Psycho-social issues in elder patients and their families
01:25 – 01:30 Conclusion