

## SAFER SURGERY IN ELDERLY PATIENTS

**Calin Tiu**, Medis Foundation, Romania  
Alexandru Negoita, Medis Foundation, Romania

The total number of people over the age of 6 years increased from 8% of the global population in 1953, to over 600 million in our day (10% of the population of 6 billion in the year 2000), This ratio is raising from 7% in the less developed regions of the world to 17% in economically advanced countries. The general tendency is showing a 21% percent in 2050 for an expected number of 2 billion elderly on the globe

The global demographic dominant trend will be ageing population; this issue is clearly obvious by the increasing median age of the world's population from 21.6 years in 1970, to 26.5 years in 2000, being evaluated at 31.2 years in the year 2025. Europe is "The most elderly", continent with an average age of the population of about 1.3-1.4 times higher than that of the world population, being estimated for the year 2025 to approximately 40 years

Elderly patients undergoing surgical treatment have a particularly high associated mortality. It is difficult to define a consensus between the patient's age and expected outcome after surgery. On every patient's case has to be decided on individual conditions. Old age alone should not exclude patients from surgery. Minimal invasive procedures are improving surgery for all, especially the elderly.

Counting 21 millions in 1900, Romania faced a large exodus of young adult population during last two decades, losing more than 7% active adults and raising the proportion of elderly to 21%. The access to high technology is still limited by the individual and social economical level. In those conditions, there are few voices affirming that a better infrastructure for developing of geriatric surgery become useful. The strategy of concentrating a multidisciplinary teams around the specific needs of elderly patients could drive to a safer surgery with more efficient medical costs.

Considering the cumulus of co morbidities and the psychological fragility of this age, Medis Foundation initiated a demarche to local medical authorities intended for inclusion of the geriatric surgery into the list of surgical sub specialties, as a prime step towards a dedicated infrastructure for elderly patients