

## ABSTRACT

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In western countries, the process of “ageing of the population” is increasingly forcing clinical medicine to find answers for pathologies affecting the elder segments of our community. In this respect, pituitary adenomas (which account for a significant proportion of intracranial tumors.) often raise difficult questions on surgical indications, since little is known about postoperative morbidity and mortality in elderly patients.

The transsphenoidal endonasal approach (TNS), which is considered the gold standard for surgical resection of the majority of functioning and non-functioning pituitary adenomas, is supposed to be a low morbidity and mortality procedure in adult patients. However, only a few contradicting data are available in the literature about elderly patients.

It will be presented a retrospectively analysis of a cohort of 43 consecutive patients aged more than 65 years, operated on for pituitary adenomas at our Institution in the years 1998–2007.

Moreover some remarks will be underlined to identify risks factors in developing pituitary apoplexy in elderly patients affected by pituitary adenoma.

The analysis will be focused on the differences in the rate of surgical and endocrinological cure, minor and major surgical complications and hospitalization duration of these patients in comparison to younger patients.