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Longitudinal study of morbidity of the population in Romania

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Abstract

In the second half of the XXth century, five National Medical Surveys of the Morbidity of the Population were carried out in Romania.

Methodology: The medical surveys were carried out on representative samples for the entire Romanian population, based on a typical stratified selection, on three levels (7 different socio-economic regions – as the first level; the rural and urban areas – as the second; and the administrative locality – as the third).

Selected results: Comparing the two medical surveys from 1983 and 1997 – which were carried out with an identical methodology – the following resulted:

- The larger prevalence of diagnosed diseases in the medical surveys mentioned is attributable to the *circulatory system diseases* (Figure nr. 1-3).
- The overall *digestive system* diseases presented a two-fold increase of the prevalence indicators for those 14 years, and are significantly higher for the female sex, and the rural area (Figure nr. 4).
- Structured, however, the more severe diseases (the *ulcerous disease*, the *chronic hepatitis* and *liver cirrhosis*, and the *biliary tract diseases*) are strongly differentiated, especially by sexes. (Figure nr.5-6)
- The *rheumatic diseases* are also presenting increases for both sexes – more marked for the female sex – and in the rural area (Figure nr. 7), with a higher prevalence for *arthroses* and *spondilopathies*.
- The *diabetes mellitus* is exhibiting an important increase, with a higher prevalence for the male sex and the urban area (Figure nr. 8).
- The *chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases* have almost doubled in the 14 years covered, with a much higher prevalence for the male sex, and the rural area (Figure nr. 9).

The *renal diseases* prevalence has tripled in the 14 years period, with much higher indicators for the female sex, and the urban area (Figure nr. 10).

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