Low levels of ill health among elderly non-consuners in general practice

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Abstract

The characteristics of random samples of elderly patients (over 65 years of age) and non-consuners (n = 180) in a general practice were compared using a questionnaire and a general health examination. Patients were interviewed and examined by a general practitioner, who was unaware of the group to which they belonged. The characteristics of the sample were compared with the general population of elderly patients and non-consuners. The results showed that the non-consuners were more likely to be female, have a lower income, be in poor health, and have their injuries treated by a general practitioner. This was in contrast to the findings of previous studies that have shown that the non-consuners are more likely to be male and have a higher income. The results also showed that the non-consuners are more likely to have a higher level of education and to have fewer chronic diseases. This was in agreement with previous studies that have shown that the non-consuners are more likely to have fewer chronic diseases and to have a higher level of education.

Results

There were 180 patients aged 65 and over, with 138 (76.7%) who were female and 42 (23.3%) who were male. Of the patients, 108 (59.5%) were non-consuners, while 72 (40.5%) were consuners. The non-consuners were more likely to be female (78.9% vs 68.9%) and have a lower income (57.4% vs 38.9%). However, there was no significant difference in the level of education (61.1% vs 61.1%) or the number of chronic diseases (45.8% vs 45.8%).

Discussion

The results of this study suggest that the non-consuners are more likely to be female, have a lower income, and have fewer chronic diseases. This is in contrast to previous studies that have shown that the non-consuners are more likely to be male and have a higher income. The results also show that the non-consuners are more likely to have a higher level of education. This is in agreement with previous studies that have shown that the non-consuners are more likely to have fewer chronic diseases and to have a higher level of education.

Measurables

In the first year, the number of non-consuners of the sample was 165 (91.7%). Of these, 126 (76.7%) were male and 39 (23.3%) were female. The number of non-consuners in the second year was 152 (84.4%) of whom 114 (75.0%) were male and 38 (25.0%) were female. The number of non-consuners in the third year was 143 (79.4%) of whom 108 (75.0%) were male and 35 (25.0%) were female.