

Falls and the Elderly

Declining health and mobility leave many elderly people frail and vulnerable. One of the consequences of advancing years is the increased risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Here is a look at the numbers and costs from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/falls.htm>.

1.8 million

seniors aged 65 and older who were treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries in 2003.

421,000

seniors aged 65 and older who were hospitalized as a result of a fall in 2003.

\$179 million

direct medical costs for fatal falls in 2000.

\$19.3 billion

direct medical costs for nonfatal fall injuries in 2000.

10-15 times

increased likelihood of sustaining a fall-related hip fracture for people aged 85 years and older compared with people aged 60 to 65.

13,000

people aged 65 and older who died from fall-related injuries in 2002.

80%

of all hip fractures are sustained by women.



33

percentage of adults aged 65 years and older who fall each year.

338,000

approximate number of hospital admissions for hip fractures in 1999.

Ad Index

November/December 2006

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists	10
Home Instead Senior Care	9
Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, Inc.	
Razadyne	IBC, OBC
Pfizer, Inc.	
Aricept	IFC, 1
QS/1	3
Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.	
Rozerem	5-6

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