

TAKING CARE OF SWALLOWING DISORDERS IN A TERRITORIAL ASL

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Background and aims

Dysphagia is a widespread problem that is constantly increasing in both incidence and prevalence, mainly due to the aging of the population. The large number of requests from the city area for taking care of swallowing disorders, both from a diagnostic-rehabilitation and nutritional point of view, has resulted in the need to reorganize the care activities of the facilities involved.

Methods

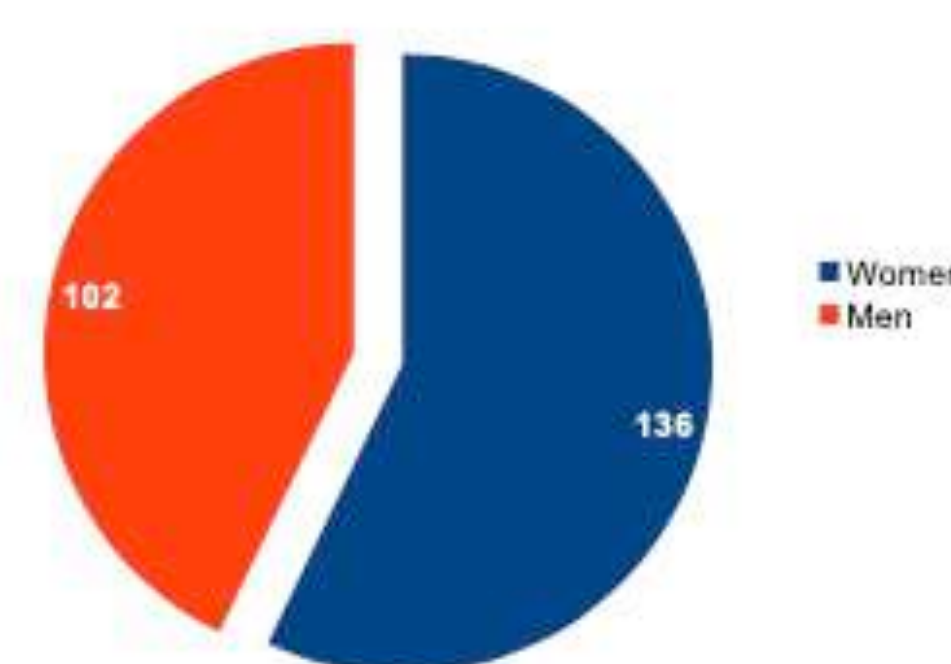
The reorganization of care activities, initiated by the TRRF after the evaluation of data on the activity of the multidisciplinary dysphagia evaluation desk activated in 2020, continued with the involvement of the CNU in order to ensure early care of both swallowing disorders and related nutritional issues

Results

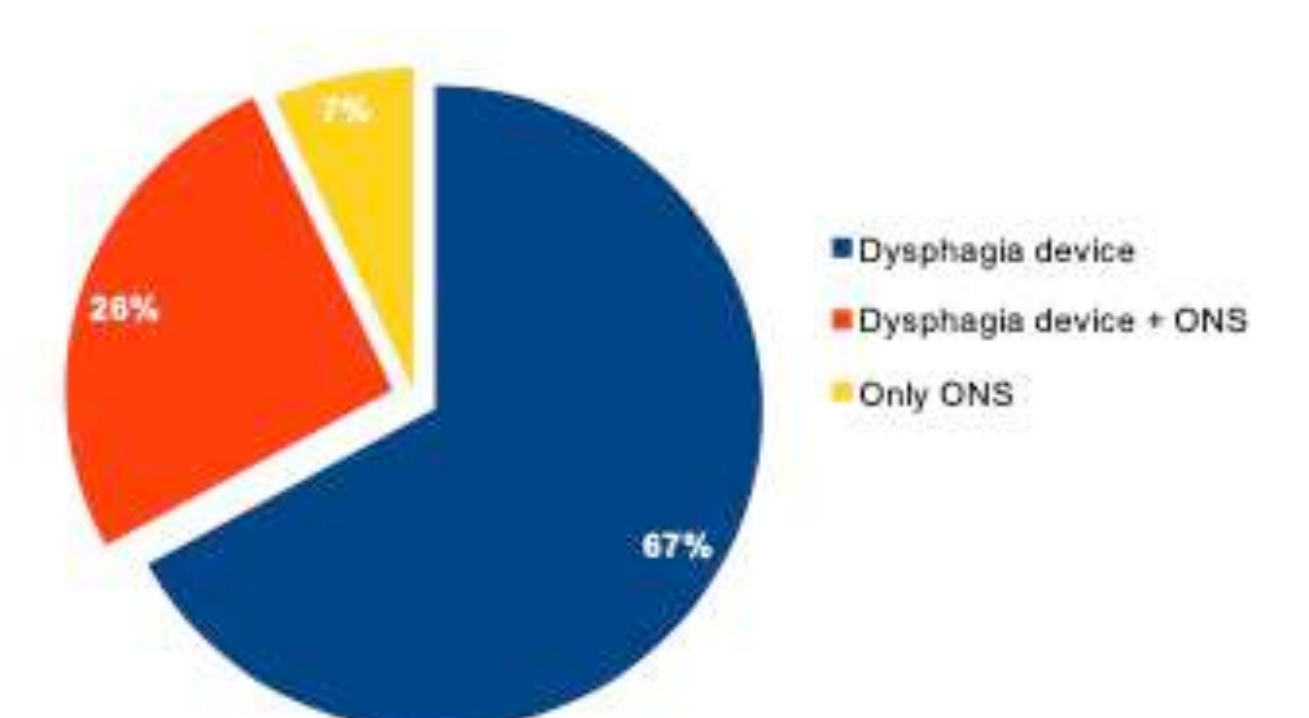
As of September 2020, 238 patients (pts), 136 women and 102 men, were taken care of by the CNU territorial dysphagia outpatient clinic. At the end of June 2023, pts in charge were 135 (74 woman, 61 men), deceased 69 pts, discharged 12 pts and transferred 3 pts, drop-out 19 pts. The median age of the pts in charge is 85 years and the prevalent diseases are dementia (69%). The average length of treatment for pts currently in care is 247 days. The wait between TRRF assessment and intake from CNU is 15 days.

PATIENTS IN CHARGE (6/2023)	135 pz
DECEASED	69 pz
DISCHARGED	12 pz
TRANSFERRED	3 pz
DROP-OUT	19 pz
MEDIAN AGE	85 age
PREDOMINANT PHATOLOGY	69% DEMENTIAS
AVERAGE WAITING TIME BETWEEN DYSPHAGIA AND NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT	15 DAYS

PATIENTS TAKEN CARE OF (9/2020-6/2023)



HEN PRESCRIPTIONS



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Conclusions

With a view to interventions with a strong proactive character toward the elderly population and their families in a Chronic Care Model context, the activation of a diagnostic-therapeutic-care pathway shared by the two facilities allowed for early care of home patients, reducing the time between diagnosis, rehabilitation and nutritional assistance. Additional and different scenarios may arise with the spread of telemedicine, telerehabilitation and telenutrition.

