

RARE DISEASES

LEADING GROUPS OF RARE DISEASES BY AGE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, 2013-2022.

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Background: Rare diseases are a heterogeneous group of approximately 7,000 diseases, which have a common feature of low frequency. According to the definition of the European Commission, rare diseases occur in a maximum of five out of 10,000 people in the general population.

Methods and Objectives: In order to analyze the leading rare diseases by age, data from the Register of persons suffering from rare diseases in Serbia for the period 2013-2022 were analyzed. Absolute distributions and proportions of patients with rare diseases were used.

Results: Based on the data of the register of persons suffering from rare diseases, in the period from 2013 to 2022, a total of 5914 persons with rare diseases were registered in Serbia. The rarest diseases were registered in the age group 18-64 (41.6%), followed by the ages: 6-17 (18.0%), 0-1 (14.8%) and in 65 years and older (13.3%). The least number of registered rare diseases was in the age group of 2-5 (12.3%). At the youngest age (0-1), almost every third child (35.3%) was registered as a rare disease in the group of diseases of glands with internal secretion, nutrition and metabolism (ICD 10: E00-E90). Rare diseases in the group of diseases of the musculoskeletal system (ICD 10: M00-M99) were most prevalent in the ages: older than 65 (57.8%), 18-64 (51.5%) and 2-5 (22.1%). Diseases of endocrine glands, nutrition and metabolism (ICD 10: E00-E90) were most common in the age group 6-17 (23.7%). In the group of injuries and poisoning (ICD 10: S00-T98), the least rare diseases (0.1%) were recorded in all the age categories shown.

Conclusions: Congenital deformities and chromosomal anomalies are most common in the youngest age group, while diseases of the musculoskeletal system are most prevalent in the elderly.

Keywords: leading rare diseases, age, Serbia