

What is the evolution of periarticular pathologies in French GPs practice between 1999 and 2004?

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Context

In 2000 the job standard time has been reduced in France from 39 to 35 hours a week. Unions complained that the same amount of work had just been deployed on less hours. At the same time GP and occupational physicians said that they noticed an increase in periarticular pathologies.

Objective

To assess evolution of periarticular pathologies presented by patients consulting French GPs in 1999 and 2004.

Methods

Prospective descriptive study of data collected ongoing and in real time by a GP network for all patients and every consultation and home visit in 1999 and 2004. Marker of periarticular pathologies: Shoulder (tenosynovitis) Epicondylitis and Tenosynovitis.

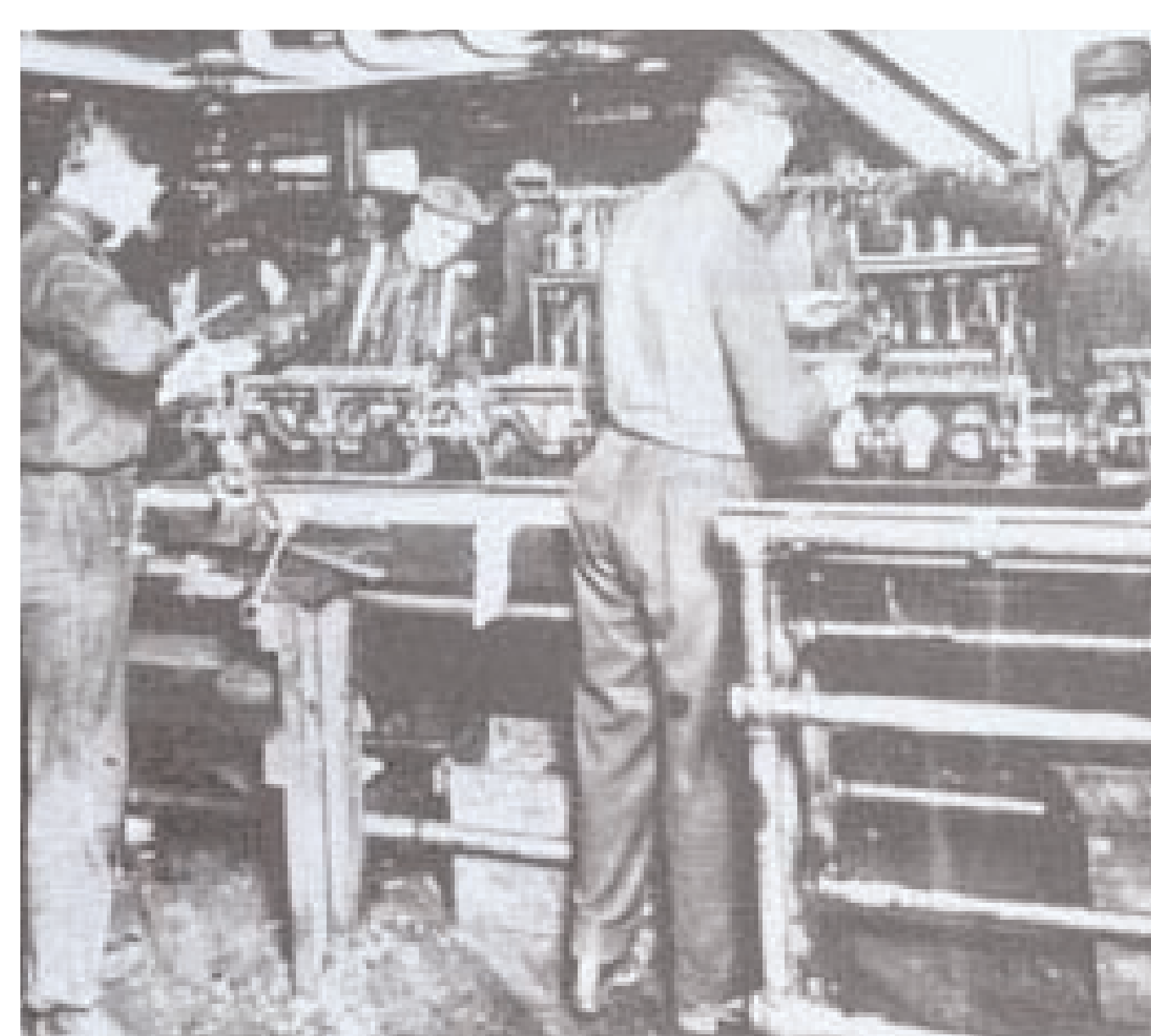
For this 3 health problem we analysed the number of consultation and the evolution between 1999 and 2004 using Khi test.

Indicators	1999	2004	p
Numbers of GP	74	74	
Consultations & visits	275,64	301,927	
Epicondylitis (1)	451 (0,16%)	951 (0,31%)	<10-3
Shoulder tenosynovitis (2)	3,262 (1,18%)	5,067 (1,68%)	<10-3
Other tenosynovitis (3)	2,142 (0,78%)	2,564 (0,85%)	0,002
(1) an increase was found for all age groups from 30 to 69 years			
(2) an increase was found for all age groups from 10 to 90 years			
(3) an increase was found for all age groups older than 60 years			

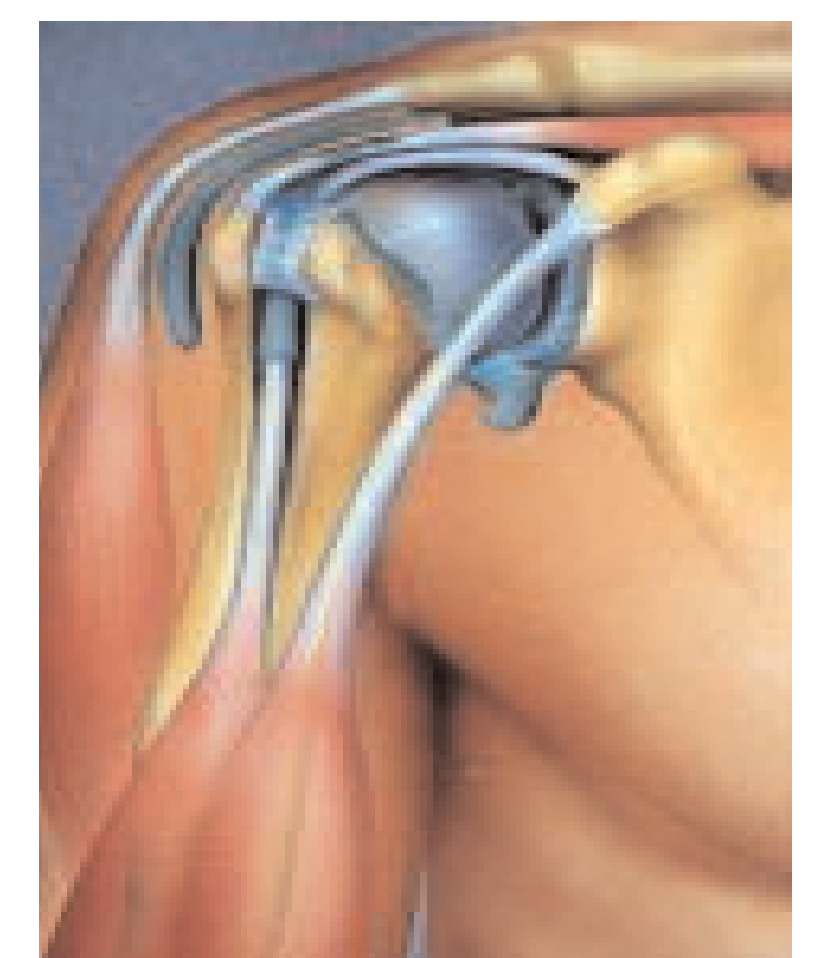
Age groups	1999	2004	p
10-19	0,7%	0,8%	0,465
20-29	0,8%	0,8%	0,65
30-39	1,1%	1,1%	0,802
40-49	1,3%	1,3%	0,672
50-59	1,3%	1,3%	0,927
60-69	0,8%	1,0%	0,0145
70-79	0,6%	0,9%	0,00003
80-89	0,2%	0,4%	0,002
All patients	0,8%	0,8%	0,002
Percentage of consultations for tenosynovitis by age groups and year			

Age groups	1999	2004	p
10-19	0,01 %	0,02 %	0,456
20-29	0,04 %	0,06 %	0,229
30-39	0,18 %	0,36 %	<10-5
40-49	0,50 %	0,91 %	<10-5
50-59	0,39 %	0,74 %	<10-5
60-69	0,13 %	0,31 %	<10-5
70-79	0,10 %	0,07 %	0,133
80-89	0,02 %	0,03 %	0,467
All patients	0,16 %	0,31 %	<10-5
Percentage of consultations for Epicondylitis by age groups and year			

Age groups	1999	2004	p
10-19	0,1 %	0,3 %	0,0002
20-29	0,5 %	0,6 %	0,036
30-39	0,7 %	1,1 %	<10-7
40-49	1,7 %	2,3 %	<10-8
50-59	2,3 %	3,2 %	<10-8
60-69	2,3 %	2,8 %	0,0002
70-79	1,8 %	2,9 %	<10-8
80-89	1,5 %	2,2 %	0,00001
All patients	0,78 %	0,85 %	0,0023
Percentage of consultations for Shoulder tenosynovitis by age groups and year			



SFMG thanks all GPs and patients anonymously participating to the OGM for supplying their practice data.



Discussion

In the OGM network, this study shows an increase of periarticular pathologies between 1999 and 2004. To extrapolate those data to general population, a standardisation should be realised using yearly consulting population.

This increase may have to origins:

- a real increase of those pathologies,
- a grater attention by GPs to periarticular diseases,
- a increase of complain of patients aware of problems by media campaigns.

Furthermore, the increase may be linked to work conditions but also to free time related activities.

Conclusion

This study shows an increase of periarticular. pathologies between 1999 and 2004.

Further studies must be realised to confirm this trend, all the more so that psychological problem in work seem to have increase too.

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