

**AHP AND RISK MANAGEMENT:  
A CASE STUDY FOR ASSESSING RISK FACTORS FOR FALLS IN  
COMMUNITY-DWELLING OLDER PATIENTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Falls occur frequently among older people and represent the most common cause of injury-related morbidity and mortality in later life. Preventing falls is an important way to reduce injuries, hospitalizations and injury-related morbidity and mortality among older people. The research literature has identified hundreds of risk factors for falls among elderly people. Prioritizing risk factors for falls is useful for designing effective and efficacious prevention programs.

The aim of this study was to use the Analytic Hierarchy Process to develop a hierarchy of risk factors for falls based on the knowledge and experience of experts working in this field.

We designed a web portal to submit electronic questionnaires in order to reach the highest number of respondents quickly and to reduce errors in responding. We contacted the person responsible for the Falls sections of four scientific societies. Finally, we propose a correction method to modify respondents' relative importance on the base of coherence of their responses, in order not to exclude experts neither resubmit twice the same questionnaire.

Keywords: AHP, Falls in Elderly, Web Service.

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