Abstract
This descriptive and cross-sectional study was aimed at classifying elderly patients admitted to the medical clinic of a tertiary hospital, according to socio-demographic variables, and identifying their frailty. Data collection was carried out in the period between October 2010 and March 2011, through a questionnaire with socio-demographic data and the Edmonton Frail Scale. Eighty-four elderly patients with an average age of 73.8 participated in the study; 60.7% were male, 44.0% married and 32.1% widowers/widows; 75.0% were retired; 54.8% possessed between one and four years of formal education. Regarding the identification of frailty, 42.9% presented severe, 33.3% mild and 19.0% moderate frailty. Among the elderly who presented severe frailty, 63.6% were women, 63.0% were over 80 years of age, 53.1% lived without a partner and 75.8% considered their health poor. It is believed that identifying the frailty of elderly patients helps healthcare professionals in planning and implementing care actions for the elderly.

Keywords