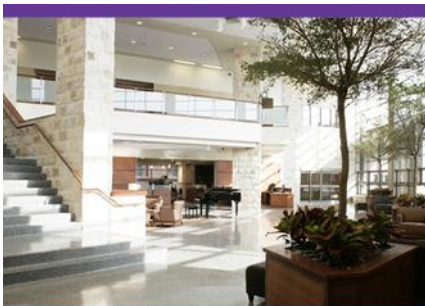




KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study was to evaluate patient and ward characteristics relating to falls in an acute care setting.



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An Epidemiological Study of Falls on Integrated General Medical Wards

Vassallo, M., Azeem, T., Pirwani, M. F., Sharma, J. C., Allen, S. C.
2000 / International Journal of Clinical Practice
Volume 54, Issue 10, Pages 654-657

Key Concepts/Context

Inpatient falls are common and may result in serious physical and psychological morbidity. In hospitals, quality of care is important for healthcare workers, patients, and their relatives. Falls and accidents are therefore an important risk management issue.

Methods

In a prospective open observational study fall characteristics in two nuclear-designed wards (A and B) and a longitudinal ward (C) were examined.

Findings

The longitudinal ward (C) recorded significantly higher numbers of falls and event-positive days. Falls occurred more often close to the bedside (bed and chair) than in the other two radial wards. Ward C also recorded the most fallers over the study compared with the nuclear wards.

Limitations

This study did not evaluate other ward configurations; therefore, the outcome generalizability is limited.

Design Implications

Patients who are not oriented to their environment have an increased chance of falling. Close attention should be given to visibility and clutter-free environments that are navigable.