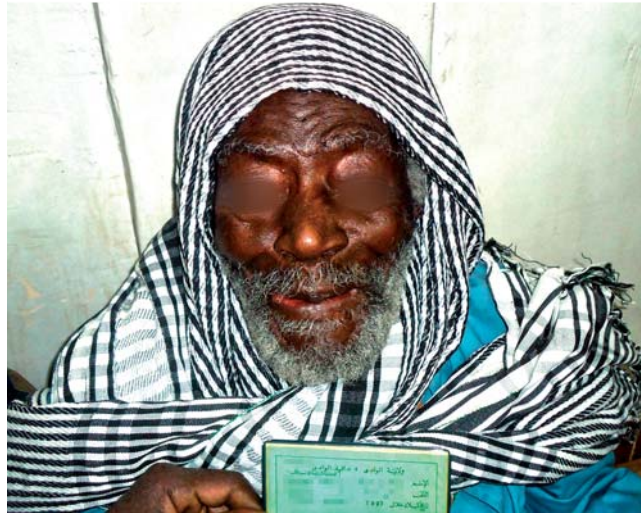


## Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy for hematemesis in a patient aged 117 years

Gastrointestinal bleeding is the most important emergency in gastroenterology [1]. The number of people surviving to advanced age is increasing and more than 1% of the population aged 80 years or older are hospitalized each year for gastrointestinal bleeding [2]. We report a case of an Algerian man born in 1893 (● Fig. 1) who was admitted to our hospital with hematemesis.

On admission the patient's skin and mucosae were pale; his blood pressure was 90/60 mmHg with a heart rate of 105 beats per minute and a regular rhythm. Abdominal examination revealed slight tenderness in the epigastrium and digital rectal examination found hard stools with no fresh blood or melena. His complete blood count showed normocytic anemia with hemoglobin at 6.8 g/dL and a red cell count of  $1.87 \times 10^{12}/L$ . Therapy with intravenous fluids, proton pump inhibitors, and blood transfusion was initiated. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed without general anesthesia using a 9.8-mm fiber gastroscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). The procedure, which lasted approximately 8 minutes, found pale stomach mucosa with traces of blood in the stomach and erosions. Pathological examination of mucosal specimens demonstrated mild *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastroduodenitis. *H. pylori* eradication therapy was initiated. Centenarians are people who live to or beyond 100 years. Supercentenarians are people who have lived to the age of 110 or more and represent about one-thousandth of centenarians [3]. In 2009 the United Nations estimated that there were 455 000 centenarians worldwide [4]. Our patient was born in 1893 in El Oued, Algeria. The patient was contacted by our department 1 year after the procedure, in February 2012. He was found to be in good shape and is now 119 years old.



**Fig. 1** The supercentenarian man who underwent an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy at our hospital for hematemesis due to *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastroduodenitis and remains well 1 year later at the age of 119 years.

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**Competing interests:** None

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