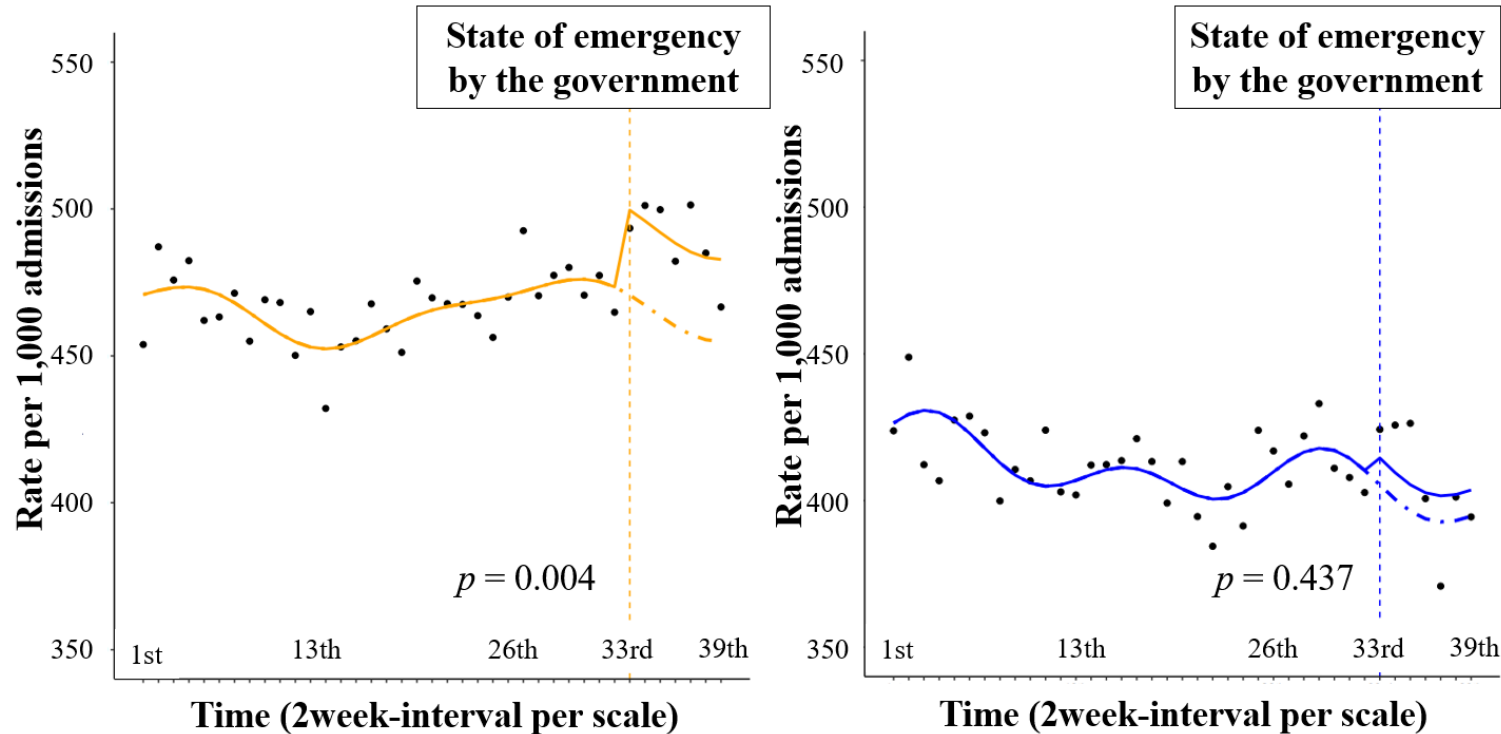


ITS analysis of the number of patients with cognitive impairment who were restrained



Hospitals received COVID-19 positive patients

Hospitals received no COVID-19-positive patients

We evaluated the impact of changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic on physical restraint among elderly patients with cognitive impairment in acute care hospitals. 97,233 admissions in hospitals received at least one COVID-19-positive patient admission during the study period and 58,623 admissions those having none were included. Interrupted time-series analysis showed significant increase in the use of physical restraints ($p = 0.004$) in hospitals that received COVID-19-positive patients. Medical staff especially working for hospitals received COVID-19-positive were under pressure owing to the heavy workload, higher risk of infection and prejudice, which may affect our results.