

DRUG OVERDOSING, PERSONALITY DISORDER AND SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOUR

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Introduction: Suicide and self-injurious behaviour are one of the most common causes of consulting in the hospital emergency services. Most of the cases, are attempts made by intake of great quantities of drugs (drug overdosing).

Objectives: Review of the drug overdosings attended in our Hospital emphasizing our interest in the presence of psychiatric history, characteristics of the attempt and case management.

Methods: Retrospective review of clinical histories of patients attended by the Emergency Service.

Results: We identified 112 drug overdosings.

68·8% of the patients attended were women, being the most frequent age range from 31 to 40 years (33%).

80·4% of the patients collected had psychiatric history, being the most common diagnosis: Mood-Anxiety disorders 60·7%, Substance-Related Disorders 41·1%, Personality disorder 30·4% and Psychotic disorder 10·7.

Previous attempts were found in 43·8% of the patients.

The most common drug used were benzodiazepines (73% of the cases), followed by antypsichotics (17·9%). Up to 32·1% of the patients used non psychitric drugs.

The most common diagnosis was suicide attempt (41·1%), followed by parasuicide attempt. 41·4% of the drug overdosings were not considered as self injurious behavior.

When we compared those diagnosed of personality disorder with the rest of the patients, we found that although they were more often diagnosed of parasuicide (50% Vs 32·1%), they needed more hospitalizations (41% Vs 21%)

Conclusions: Self-injurious behaviour are one of the most common causes of consulting in the hospital emergency services. Patients diagnosed of personality disorder are more commonly hospitalized after making a suicide attempt.