

P50.05

Suicide attempts in Northern Turkey

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Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the demographic characteristics, psychiatric diagnosis and the type of suicide attempts in Northern Turkey.

Methods: 1179 suicide attempts admitted to The Emergency Department and Psychiatry Service of Ondokuzmayıs University Hospital between April 1994 and August 2001 were analyzed.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 24.7 ± 0.31 years. There was gender variation between the suicide attempters. The group consisted of 843 (71,5 %) female and 336 (28,5%) male. The death rate of the suicide attempts was 65 (3,8 %). The rate of using drugs and chemicals for suicide attempts was the highest. 1009 (85,6 %) patients attempted suicide by using drugs and chemicals. 645 (54,7 %) patients were not seen by a psychiatrist. The psychiatric examination of the 244 (20,7 %) patients were normal, 95 (8,1%) patients were diagnosed as major depression and 40 (3,4%) had anxiety disorder.

Conclusions: The results of this study were compared with the ones in the literature.

P50.06

Psychiatric treatments of patients before hospitalisation after a tentamen

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Many patients are admitted in a psychiatric hospital as a consequence of a tentamen. This study aimed at examining psychotropic medication of patients admitted at a psychiatric hospital in Switzerland (Bellelay). 37 situations were recorded within a year, in which 31 patients were admitted to this clinic after a tentamen. Five of these patients were admitted twice or more during the same year after a tentamen. Only 21 patients had psychotherapy before admission, and 12 patients were without psychotropic treatment at admission. Among the patients who were treated with psychotropic drugs, 17 patients were premedicated with antidepressants and 7 patients with antipsychotics. 15 patients were treated with benzodiazepines, and 6 patients for sleep disturbances. In 32 situations, psychotropic drugs were used for their tentamen, most often antidepressants or benzodiazepines.

This study confirms that suicidal patients are frequently under-treated before admission for a tentamen. Interestingly, intoxication by psychotropic drugs was the main method used for suicidal purposes, despite some patients were not prescribed drugs.

P50.07

Risk factors for suicidal ideation and attempts among psychiatric patients with major depressive disorder

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Objective: Few studies have investigated risk factors, or possible differences in them, for suicidal ideation and attempts in a representative sample of psychiatric patients with major depressive disorder.

Method: As a part of the Vantaa Depression Study (VDS) in the city of Vantaa, Finland, altogether 269 patients with DSM-IV major depressive disorder (MDD), diagnosed with standardised SCAN 2.0 and SCID-II interviews, were thoroughly investigated. Suicidal behaviour was assessed by interviews including the Scale for Suicidal Ideation (SSI), and information obtained from psychiatric records.

Results: Of all patients with MDD, 38% had current suicidal ideation (SSI > 5). Fifteen percent of all patients had attempted suicide during the current depressive episode, almost all (95%) of these having also had suicidal ideation during the current episode. In nominal regression models predicting suicidal ideation, hopelessness, alcohol dependence or abuse, low level of social and occupational functioning, and perceived poor social support were found to be significant independent risk factors. In particular, high severity of depression and current alcohol dependence or abuse, but also younger age, and low level of functioning predicted suicide attempt.

Conclusions: Suicidal ideation is prevalent, and appears to be a precondition for suicide attempts among psychiatric patients with MDD. The risk factors for suicidal ideation and attempt comprise factors from several clinical and psychosocial domains. While these risk factors largely overlap, substance abuse and severity of depression may be of particular importance in predicting suicide attempts.

P50.08

Risk factors of suicide in in-patients and recently discharged patients with affective disorders

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Objectives: To identify risk factors for suicide related to socio-economic factors, upbringing, life events and history of disease.

Methods: 135 patients with affective disorder admitted during the period 01.01.94–31.12.95, and who had committed suicide no more than 12 months after the discharge from a psychiatric hospital were included together with a matched control.

Summary of result: Prior suicide attempt, the death of a parent before the patients was 20 years old, and the loss of a job during the year before the suicide were associated with an elevated risk of suicide. A lower risk of suicide was associated with clinical improvement during inpatient treatment.

Conclusion: Risk factors for suicide in in-patients and recently discharged patients are mainly related to the psychiatric disease and differ from the risk factors for suicide in the general population.

P50.09

Antidepressants in 15432 suicides in Sweden 1992–2000

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Objectives: Investigation of correlations between use of antidepressants with suicide rates, and with rates of toxicological findings of antidepressants in suicides.

Methods: National statistics on suicide and sales of antidepressants. Data from the national forensic toxicological database.

Results: The use of antidepressants increased more than 5-fold in Sweden during 1990–2000. Until 1998 suicide rates had decreased by 24% (21.3/100 000 inhabitants in 1998, n=1534). In the