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SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND CLINICAL DATA OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTERS FROM THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL OF ASTURIAS (NORTHERN SPAIN)

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Objectives:

- i. To establish the sociodemographic profile of the subjects who attempted suicide in the Health Area IV of Asturias (Northern Spain);
- ii. To determine the mental disorders more frequently associated with suicide attempts (SA);
- iii. To study the relationship between repetition of suicidal behaviour and severity of the SA;
- iv. To determine the more commonly used methods for SA.

Method: 1,633 suicide attempters who attended the Emergency Room of the University Central Hospital of Asturias during the period 2003-2005 were included in the study. Evaluation of these patients was made using the WHO/Euro Multicentre Study Protocol. Psychiatric diagnoses were made following ICD-10 criteria.

Results: Sociodemographic data: mean age (SD) = 38.66 (15.13); females: 62%; single: 39.8%; living with their family: 83.8%; lowest educational level: 67%; economically inactive: 33.8%. More prevalent psychiatric diagnoses were affective disorders (24.1%) and anxiety disorders (21.6%). Previous SA were present in 49.2% and 40% repeat the attempt during the monitoring period. Severity of the attempt (lethality of method and intentionality) was related with repetition of the behaviour during the monitoring period ($p = 0.001$). More frequent methods were overdose (74.8%) followed by cutting (18.5%).

Conclusions: SA was more prevalent in a single woman with age between 30 and 50 years who suffering for affective or anxiety disorders. Many of the patients repeat the suicidal behaviour and this was related to the severity of the attempt. Individuals appear to use the methods that are available to them to attempt suicide.