

EV799

Changing pattern of clinical profile of first contact patients attending outpatient Services at the General Hospital Psychiatric Units in India over the last 50 years

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Introduction Over the last eight decades, general hospital psychiatric units (GHPUs) have become important mental health service set-ups in India. This period has seen a large number of radical changes in the Indian society. In this background, it is important to know if it had any effects on the patients attending the GHPUs.

Methodology A total of five hundred subjects, attending a GHPU were recruited prospectively for the study. The subjects were assessed using a semi-structured proforma. A comparison was made with similar studies conducted in GHPU settings over the last 5 decades.

Results Neurotic, stress related and somatoform disorders was the commonest diagnostic group (33%) followed by psychotic disorders (17%) and mood disorders (15%). The finding is broadly similar to the studies done at different times in the last 5 decades. However, there were lesser number of patients with mental retardation, organic brain syndrome and seizure disorder.

Conclusion The study highlights the strengths of GHPU set-ups like inter-speciality referrals, fewer stigmas, patients travelling from far off places to seek treatment and involvement of family in the care of mentally ill.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1784>

EV800

Seven years of occupational psychiatry in a Portuguese university hospital

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Introduction Occupational psychiatry is the field of psychiatry that focuses on work, its importance in the lives of individuals and work organizations. It gained visibility in the 2000 decade, after the creation of the Academy of Occupational and Organizational Psychiatry. Following that trend, occupational psychiatry outpatient started in 2008 at Hospital de Santa Maria.

Objective To describe the structure and functioning of that project; to characterize the population that has been referred to this subspecialty, as well as the main motives for referral; and to highlight some paradigmatic cases that deserve special attention.

Aims Call attention to the importance of occupational psychiatry at the individual and institutional level.

Methods All the patients ever referred to the occupational psychiatry consultation were considered for the analysis. Clinical information was obtained through medical records and interviews with the patients. Bibliographic research was conducted through the PubMed in the Medline library.

Results In our hospital, the prototype patient referred to occupational psychiatry is a middle-aged woman working as a medical assistant. The most frequent motives for referral were related to difficulties in accomplishing job duties and definite psychiatric diagnosis corresponded more often to the common mental disorders (anxiety, depression and adjustment disorders). At the institutional level, the initiative was received with great enthusiasm.

Conclusions As Freud stated “To Love and work are the cornerstone of our humanness”, in line with that we consider that occupational psychiatry should be taken as a priority in what concerns to mental health policies.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1785>

EV801

Stigma and poor mental health literacy as barriers to service use among unemployed people with mental illness – a qualitative study

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Introduction/objectives Mental health problems were shown by different studies to be both: results of and risk factors for unemployment. However, unemployed people with mental health problems often have difficulties in finding and using mental health services and therefore do not benefit from therapies. Because unemployed individuals outside the healthcare system are a hard-to-reach group, barriers to but also facilities for mental health services are poorly understood.

Aims The aim of the study is to identify barriers and facilitators of help seeking and service use, based on experiences of unemployed people with mental health strains.

Methods We conducted 15 qualitative semi-structured interviews with unemployed individuals, facing self-reported mental health problems or mental illness. Topics included individual experiences with help-seeking and mental health service use, with a focus on barriers and facilitators. Interviews were audiotaped and transcribed verbatim. Transcripts were analyzed using qualitative content analysis and major themes were identified.

Results Patients fear adverse reactions of psychiatric medication. They report to be treated as “different” by their social environment and health professionals, which leads to a lack of self-esteem and inhibits them in their help seeking efforts. Social support and desire for change on the other hand can be strong motivational factors in searching for help.

Conclusion Perception of GPs towards mental health issues of their patients, and especially unemployed patients, has to be raised. Stigmatization of mental illnesses and help seeking should be reduced in practical context.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1786>

EV803

Mental health improvement through physical therapy: Polish perspective

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Among people suffering from mental conditions increased prevalence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and respiratory disease is observed, with considerably higher levels of morbidity and mortality. Still, mental conditions are neglected and not treated equally to other medical states in Poland. It is commonly believed that psychiatric patients are violent and unpredictable,