

P-980 - QUALITY OF LIFE IN SERBIAN VETERANS ONE DECADE AFTER WAR

Z.Spiric, R.Samardzic, B.Matejic, V.Cucic, M.Cavaljuga

¹Clinic for Psychiatry, Military Medical Academy, ²Institute of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, ³Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Belgrade, Serbia

Introduction: Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is usually associated with poor psychosocial functioning. A broad range of international researches assess the influence of stressful events, such as war, on the quality of life of veterans.

Objectives: To assess the general quality of life of Serbian war veterans one decade after war.

Aims: Analysis of socio-demographic data and data obtained from the general quality of life questionnaire, SF-36 in three groups of war veterans.

Method: The research was conducted May to October 2008, in two phases: the field survey on 2370 male veterans and targeted survey of mental health on the subsample of 295 veterans. Assessment included self-assessment tests and clinician administered psychological tests conducted by two trained interviewers. Clinician administered PTSD scale (CAPS) was used in sub-grouping the sample on veterans with current PTSD (n=26), lifetime PTSD (n=59) and non-PTSD veterans (n=210).

Results: Lower quality of life according to SF-36 subscales significantly correlates with the poor financial status and degree of disability. The values of all scales were significantly lower in veterans with PTSD comparing to other groups, and significantly lower in veterans with lifetime PTSD comparing to non-PTSD veterans. The diagnosis of PTSD was statistically confirmed predictor of lower quality of life in relation to all scales. Veterans had significantly worse results than the male population from 25-74 years in Serbia (Health Survey of Serbian Population, 2006).

Conclusion: The quality of life assessment confirms significant vulnerability of Serbian war veterans, especially those with chronic PTSD.