

VIOLENCE AND VICTIMISATION AMONG PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Aims/objectives: To examine the prevalence of violent behavior, victimisation and its consequences among people receiving in-patient treatment for schizophrenia and control group.

Methods: Data on violent behavior and victimization, sexual and physical abuse in childhood, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and substance abuse were obtained from adult in-patients with psychotic disorders and from their collaterals. A total of 167 patients (57.5% men and 42.5% women) participated. Control group was recruited from Department of Stomatology (n=211).

Results: Violent behaviour during preceding 6 months was higher in men (34%) and women (34%) patients compared to controls (13%, resp. 15%) ($p < 0,01$). Victimisation was higher in women patients (39%) compared to controls (26%) ($p < 0,05$). There were not significant difference in male patients (30%) and controls (24%).

Any form of sexual abuse was more frequent in women patients (39%) compared to controls (20%) ($p < 0,01$).

Comorbidity of schizophrenia and PTSD was detected in 7% of men and 14% of women. There were not significant difference in male patients (0%) and controls (24%). While PTSD was more frequently ($p < 0,05$) detected in women (11%) then in men control (3%), the difference was not significant in patients (7% of men, 14% of women).

Conclusion: Patients with psychotic disorders are often victims of violent attacks. Gender does not differ in aggressive behavior, but plays role in victimisation. Victimisation and its impacts (e.g PTSD) among patient with schizophrenia are underreported and consequently not properly treated.