

PROFILE OF PATIENTS CONSULTED TO PSYCHIATRY BY THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF KARTAL DR. LÜTFİ KIRDAR CITY HOSPITAL

Canay Pamukcu, Ferda Apa, Merih Altıntaş

Kartal Dr. Lütfi Kırdar City Hospital, Psychiatry Clinic, İstanbul, Türkiye

BACKGROUND AND AIM: Psychiatric emergencies are conditions that require urgent intervention and involve thought, emotion, and behavior disorders that may pose a threat to individuals or their surroundings. Consultation-liaison psychiatry (CLP) plays a crucial role in the holistic management of psychiatric disorders. The aim of our study is to examine the demographic characteristics, psychiatric diagnoses, and reasons for hospitalization of patients who presented to the emergency department of our hospital and were referred for psychiatric consultation.

METHODS: This retrospective, single-center study analyzed the medical records of 1,288 patients referred to psychiatry from the emergency department over two years (2021–2023). Ethical approval was obtained on 12.04.2023 (No: 2023/514/247/10).

RRESULTS: The analysis revealed that 660 (51.2%) of cases were female and 628 (48.8%) were male. The most common age group was 25–35 years (27.02%), and the majority (40.83%, n=526) were high school graduates. Among those referred from the emergency department to psychiatry and recommended

for hospitalization, Major Depressive Disorder was the most common diagnosis (28.1%, n=83), followed by Bipolar Disorder (24.8%, n=73) and Schizophrenia (8.1%, n=24). Of the 171 patients hospitalized after a suicide attempt, Major Depressive Disorder was the most frequent diagnosis (37.4%, n=64). Drug ingestion was the most common suicide method in all groups and genders, with women using it more frequently (34%, n=58), while sharp object injuries were more common in men.

CONCLUSION: The review showed that 660 (51.2%) of the cases were female and 628 (48.8%) were male. According to our findings, the consultation rate among women was higher than that of men. The higher number of female patients may be associated with gender roles, as women tend to seek psychiatric support more frequently. Systematizing CLP practices and strengthening collaboration between medical specialties can help prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and contribute to more effective healthcare planning.

Keywords: Consultation liaison psychiatry, psychiatric emergencies, suicide