

A RESEARCH ON SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS EVALUATED DUE TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT IN A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Burcu Arslan Kocabas, Esin Evren Kılıçaslan

Department of Psychiatry, Atatürk Education and Training Hospital, Izmir Katip Celebi University, Izmir, Türkiye

Emergency departments frequently encounter individuals attempting suicide, with %40 of suicide deaths preceded by an emergency department visit within a year. This study analyzes patient characteristics following suicide attempts at our hospital's emergency department, aiming to identify risk factors and contribute to suicide prevention efforts.

Ethics committee approval has been obtained. The number is 2024-SAEK-0048. A retrospective analysis was conducted on the sociodemographic and clinical data of patients who visited the emergency department, between July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024, due to a suicide attempt and were referred to the psychiatry department. Data was collected from the hospital's software system, and statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 20.0, with the chi-square test applied to assess relationships between sociodemographic and clinical variables.

Among the 228 patients aged 18 and over who presented to our emergency department and were consulted by psychiatry, the mean age was 34.13 years, with 109 (%47,8) females and 119 (%52,2)

males. Previous suicide attempts were reported in %55.7 of cases. Males were more likely to use sharp objects, firearms, or hanging, while females tended to use drugs or toxins ($p<0.005$). Male suicide attempts were also more planned than impulsive ($p<0.05$).

When our study results are compared with general literature information, it is consistent that suicide attempts are more frequent in single individuals, those with a history of psychiatric diagnosis, and those with alcohol and substance use. It also aligns with findings that women more often attempt suicide using drugs and toxic substances, as well as self-harm with sharp objects, while men more often attempt suicide by hanging and firearm injuries. This study investigates the relationship between the psychiatric status, sociodemographic characteristics, and clinical presentation of individuals who have attempted suicide, providing revealing data for developing effective suicide prevention strategies.

Keywords: Emergency department, sociodemographic and clinical variables, suicide attempt