

Depression in Medically ill Geriatric population- A study of predictive factors

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Keywords: Depression, Geriatric, Elderly, Medically ill, prevalence

Background: Depression in old age is an important public health problem responsible for considerable morbidity and disability worldwide and most often causes for depression are multi-factorial and often preventable. A major factor in the context of evaluating depression in the elderly is the role of medical problems, where the under recognition and under treatment of depression is especially common.

Objectives: To study the prevalence and the possible predictive factors associated with depression in medically ill elderly population.

Methodology: A cross sectional study was done among 100 elderly with medical illness attending the tertiary care hospital in Nandyal for a period of 1 year September 2012 to September 2013.

Method of collection of data: A semi structured proforma for various sociodemographic factors was administered by interview method and depression was assessed by GDS- Short version. Other scales used were Katz index for ADL, MMSE, and Presumptive stress scale.

Statistical analysis: Descriptive statistics, Chi square, Fisher's exact test, Multiple Logistic regression by SPSS 14.

Results: The prevalence of depression in the current study has been found to be 45%. Geriatric depression was higher more among those from nuclear families [$p=0.028$] and lower socioeconomic class V & IV [35.5% & 28.8% respectively]; [$p=0.024$]. It was also observed that as the number of co-morbid medical illnesses increase, the depression morbidity increases. [$p=0.047$]. Diabetes Mellitus type-2 and Cerebrovascular disorders too were significantly associated with depression. [$p=0.022$ & $p=0.009$ respectively]. Certain life events and ADL [$p=0.015$] were observed to be significant predictive factors for depression.

Conclusions: The results reaffirm that there is a high prevalence of depression among the geriatric population and adequate measures to detect and control this psychiatric disorder in elderly by specialized geropsychiatric services are needed.

A Study Of Faith Healing Practices Among Patients With Psychiatric Illness

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Keywords: faith healer, first carer, psychotic, neurotic

Background: OBJECTIVE: To find out severity/type of psychiatric illness & its correlation with the faith healing practices.

Methods: 100 consecutive patients coming on Monday, Wednesday, Friday coming to psychiatric OPD, MBGH, Udaipur were recruited in two groups

First Group: relatives of patients with psychiatric illness

Second Group: relatives of patients with neurotic illness

Statistical analysis: with statistical software SPSS ver. 15.0

Measures for assessment:

Socio-demographic Profile Sheet

Pathway Interview Schedule

Performa for information regarding faith healing practices

Consent form

Results: It was seen that faith-healers were first carer in majority, 54% of patients in Psychotic group, 39% patients came directly to psychiatry department MBGH, & 7% consulted general practitioners

In Neurotic group 54% patients came directly to psychiatry department MBGH, 30% to general practitioners, & 14% have gone to faith healers.

Conclusion: Faith healers are a major player in the contemporary mental health scenario in this region of Rajasthan (tribal belt) and they cannot be ignored.

Motivation to quit and emotion regulation among alcohol dependents in treatment

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Keywords: Alcohol dependence, Motivation to quit, Emotional Regulation, Alcohol Treatment

Background: Alcohol abuse is responsible for more than three million deaths worldwide each year and is also widely implicated in numerous economic, social and health problems. Long term and excessive alcohol consumption has been associated with impairment in cognitive functions whereas moderate alcohol use leads to better cognition and protection from cognitive decline. Age, years of alcohol abuse and severity of alcohol dependence (Severity of Alcohol Dependence Scale- SADQ-C) were taken as a composite in delineating levels of cognitive function in alcohol dependence among a sample of alcohol dependents in treatment. Two variables implicated widely in treatment outcomes; motivation and emotional regulation were measured using the Alcohol Use Self-regulation Questionnaire and Difficulties in Emotional Regulation Scale (DERS) among different groups of alcohol dependents. It was hypothesized that motivation to quit alcohol and nature of emotional regulation will vary among different levels of alcohol dependents based on cognitive functioning. Such a difference would implicate a need for changes in approaches to alcohol treatment based on the patient's age, years of alcohol use and severity of dependence. Independent samplers t-test (t) was performed to test for differences between the groups and correlation coefficient (r) between motivation and emotional regulation was also calculated. The data collection has been scheduled for October, 2014 in various psychosocial rehabilitation centres and hospitals across Bangalore, India and Kathmandu, Nepal.

Delusion Of Pregnancy And Response To Modified Electroconvulsive Therapy

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Keywords: ECT, Delusion of Pregnancy, Delusional Disorder

Background: Delusion of pregnancy is a special form of hypochondriacal / somatic delusion. High potency antipsychotics such as pimozide are indicated in the treatment of delusional disorder. However use of Modified Electroconvulsive Therapy (MECT) in delusional disorders has been reported infrequently.

Objectives: To study the response of Delusional Disorder to Modified Electroconvulsive Therapy (MECT) by serial evaluation of psychopathology during the course of treatment.

Methods: A case of PDD was treated in KMC, Manipal. In view of agitation and aggressive behaviour a course of MECT was started. Serial evaluation of patient's psychopathology on Brief psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) and Delusion Rating Scale (DRS) was done during treatment and significant response was seen.

Results: The patient showed significant response after the initial 6 MECTs and thereafter response showed a gradual plateau. Apart from decrease in agitation, delusional belief was also successfully encapsulated. At the end of 11th ECT there was a substantial reduction in patient's BPRS and DRS ratings and she did not spontaneously report the delusion.

Conclusion: The response in this case of delusional pregnancy within 6