

Conclusions: The high prevalence of neuropsychological manifestations underlines the importance of studying their pathogenesis in order to better adapt their therapeutic protocols.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0113

Emergency Department Presentations to the Mental Health Services at Sligo University Hospital during the COVID pandemic

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Introduction: In March 2020, the WHO declared the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 a pandemic and Ireland went into its first lockdown. The Mental Health Liaison team at Sligo University Hospital operate 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week, with out of hours covered by the on-call Psychiatry junior doctors. The service has seen an increase in referrals, many of whom are known to community mental health teams.

Objectives: We reviewed the numbers and trends of mental health presentations to the Emergency Department at Sligo University Hospital throughout the pandemic, including the patterns of presentations around the implementation of lockdowns.

Methods: The Liaison Mental Health Service at Sligo University Hospital gathers data relating to numbers and types of presentation to the service. Data was taken from a pre-existing database of psychiatric presentations to the emergency department at Sligo University Hospital including patient demographics, nature of presenting complaint, time period in which they presented and whether they were previously linked in with a community mental health team in the preceding six months. We also looked at the pattern of ED mental health presentations from March 2019 to August 2021. In order to compare psychiatric presentations pre and during covid, data was broken down into two groups: the twelve months preceding March 2020 and the twelve months from March 2020. Categorical data were analysed using the Chi squared test for homogeneity in SPSS.

Results: Overall, there was a 14% increase in mental health presentations during the pandemic. There was a significantly greater proportion of presentations of psychosis during the pandemic period ($p < .014$) and for medication review ($p = .03$) and significantly less presenting with addiction ($p < 0.001$). Of those patients seen in the Emergency Department in 2021, 54.3% were known to the CMHT in the previous 6 months. In 2019, mental health presentations made up 1.36% of total ED attendances. This increased to 1.47% in 2020. From January to August 2021, 2.62% of ED attendances were mental health presentations.

Image:

	Pre Covid 19	During Covid 19	P value
Gender (Male/female)	280/282	297/343	.19
SI/DSH	336 (61%)	357(56%)	.13
Depression/Anxiety	69 (12.5%)	100 (16%)	.10
Addictions	70 (13%)	36 (6%)	.00
Psychosis	22 (4%)	46 (7.3%)	.01
aggression/agitation	8 (1.5%)	14 (2%)	.33
Medication rv/Advice	6 (1%)	18 (3%)	.03
Mania	2 (0.5%)	6 (1%)	.23
Others	39 (7%)	54 ((8.5%)	.34
Total	562	640	

Conclusions: The Covid-19 pandemic led to increased mental health presentations to Sligo University Hospital emergency department, with a significantly greater proportion presenting with psychosis and for medication review. These findings have implications around patient care and service provision. These results show that the prevalence of mental health has increased during the pandemic, particularly severe and enduring mental illnesses. New strategies must be implemented to accommodate to this increase in presentations.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0115

The Role of Pet Companionship in Older Adults' Mental Health: A Qualitative Study during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Introduction: Human functioning in the physical, emotional, psychological, and social arenas is improved by contact with animals.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore the affective relationship of older adults with their pets during the COVID-19 pandemic; and to assess how the affective relationship with pets contributed to older adults' mental health.

Methods: This qualitative study included 176 participants aged 65-88 years from Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Spain. All interviews went through content analysis.

Results: Findings indicated five themes: (1) Meaningful Emotional Relations (86%); (2) Intimacy with Partners (68%); (3) New Emotional Connections (61%); (4) Sensory Stimulation (55%); and; (5) Physical Enjoyment (23%). As for the second objective, three main themes emerged from the content analysis: (1) Decreasing Depressive and Anxiety Symptoms (73%); (2) Easing Feelings of Loneliness (68%); and (3) Reducing Mood Swings (43%).

Conclusions: The affective relationship between older adults and their pets was relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic, since it allowed for solidifying affection relationships with their partner and creating new ones. Additionally, it contributed for deepening the affective relationship with themselves, in terms of sensory stimulus, physical touch and physical pleasure. Owning a pet, was important for improvement in mental health symptoms, associated to depression, anxiety, and mood swings.

Keywords: Affective relationship; animal companionship; COVID-19 pandemic; mental health; older adults; pets.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0116

SARS-CoV-2 infection and psychological distress : a prospective sero-survey in southern Switzerland

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the mental health of the population that, to some extent, may be due to the neurotropism of SARS-CoV-2. However, evidence is extremely sparse on the prospective association between serological evidence of COVID-19 infection and psychological distress.

Objectives: We aimed to explore the prospective association between seropositivity and psychological distress – assessed by symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress – in the general adult population in southern Switzerland. Further, we investigated whether this association varied over time and between pandemic waves.

Methods: We used data from 305 adults who participated in the Corona Immunitas Ticino (CIT) prospective sero-survey cohort study. We tested the association between serologically confirmed SARS-COV-2 infection at baseline (June–December 2020) and depression, anxiety and stress scores as measured by the DASS-21 scale at three time points between December 2020 and March 2021, also taking into account for sociodemographic characteristics (age, gender, education level, presence of chronic diseases, smoking, obesity).

Results: In our sample, 84.3% (mean age of 51.30, SD= ± .93) were never infected. Seropositive participants were significantly younger on average (M=46.90, SD= ±2.00, P= .04). At the first follow-up (see Table 1), seropositive participants had higher rates of mild

conditions for depression (OR= .64; P= .014) and anxiety (OR= .50; P= .030), than seronegatives. Overall, after the 6-month follow-up, seropositive participants had significantly lower rates of mild conditions for DASS-21 subscales. In addition, prevalence of mild conditions for depression, anxiety and stress decreased more rapidly over time among infected vs. never infected (see Figure 1). Older age and the presence of chronic diseases were associated with mild anxiety (OR= .97; P= .013; OR=3.47; P= .001) and stress (OR= .96; P= .003; OR= 2.56; P= .010).

Table 1. Associations (Odds Ratios) between seropositive immunological status and mental health between December 2020 and March 2021 in Ticino, southern Switzerland (N=305)

DASS-21 defined mild condition	OR	P value	CI (95%)
Depression	0.641	0.014	0.449 – 0.914
Anxiety	0.502	0.030	0.270 – 0.936
Stress	0.712	0.113	0.468 – 1.083

Note. Generalized estimating equation models results. Co-variables include time, age, gender, chronic diseases, obesity, smoking and education level.

Conclusions: Our results provide new evidence on the association between COVID-19 seropositivity and poor mental health and underline the public health implications of the pandemic because the number of infected individuals largely exceed the 770 million of recorded COVID-19 (symptomatic) cases.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

E-mental Health

EPP0118

Differential attrition in randomized controlled trials of digital mental health interventions in the workplace: A systematic review and meta-analysis (EMPOWER H2020 project)

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Introduction: Digital interventions have been found to be successful in preventing occupational mental health concerns, however, they seem to be affected by attrition bias through high attrition rates and differential attrition. Differential attrition arises when the rates