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DEPRESSION IN WAR-RELATED POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND THE ENDURING PERSONALITY CHANGE AFTER CATASTROPHIC EXPERIENCE (F62.0) A 15-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

M. Stojakovic^{1,2}, B. Stojakovic³, V. Pandzic¹, S. Vukadinovic¹, M. Subotic¹, M. Martinovic¹, R. Marin¹

¹Clinic for Psychiatry Clinical Center Banjaluka, ²Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University in Banjaluka,

³Department of Psychiatry, Medical Electronic Banjaluka, Banjaluka, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Objective: This study was a 15-year follow-up examination. Many patients with F 62.0 and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have symptoms of depression. The authors' objective is to analyze symptoms of depression in F 62.0 and PTSD.

Method: The subjects were 200 male psychiatric patients at a Clinic of psychiatry medical center Banjaluka and psychiatry department of with war-related PTSD. Post traumatic stress syndrom-PTSS scale and 21-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression-HAMD was used to assess state measures of symptom severity; from 3 months to 15 years after returning from the war.

Results: The symptoms of prolonged PTSS (with duration between six months and two years) had been founded at 54%, and 32% of patients had no diagnosis PTSD. The enduring personality change after catastrophic experience (F 62.0) had been found at 14% patients (with duration more than two years), 19% met HAMD Diagnostic Criteria for major depressive disorder. The enduring personality exchange F 62.0 had been found at 8% patients and 16% met HAMD Diagnostic Criteria for major depressive disorder 15 years after returning from the war.

Conclusions: The statistical relationship between level of combat exposure and PTSD symptoms at 15 years, suggests that it may take time for the consequences of traumatic exposure to become apparent. Moreover, degree of exposure may be important in predicting the eventual development of symptoms and precipitation of F 62.0 enduring personality exchange. Continued follow-up will address the evolution of PTSD symptoms in war related PTSD.