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EVALUATION OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR IN A GENERAL PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION

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Several studies have been conducted to establish a profile of the suicidal/parasuicidal patient. Also several factors have been identified as possibly influencing the suicidal rates, including the religious practices.

Objectives: Characterize the profile of suicidal behavior in a sample of patients followed in a general psychiatric consultation.

Methods: It was done an analytical observational study of a random sample of 100 patients followed in a general psychiatric consultation. A survey was conducted with the collection of socio-economic, religious aspects and clinical data, and it was consulted the patient's clinical process. Data analysis was done in Excel 2003.

Results: The sample was consisted mostly by women (74%), being the most representative age group between 40 and 50 years (27%), mostly married (61%), 24% had 2 children and 65% lived in the rural area. The clinical diagnosis (ICD-9) was in 46% of cases, neurotic depression. 52% consider themselves religious not practitioners, being 90% catholics. History of suicide attempts/parasuicide occurred in 32% of patients, in the form of drug intoxication (31%) or with another method (11%). Most of the individuals said to have already thought about suicide at least once in their lifetime (74%). Only 8% had current suicidal ideation. Family history of suicide occurred in 27%, particularly in first degree family members, mainly by drowning (7%) and hanging (7%).

Conclusions: Our results suggest that exists a high prevalence of suicidal behavior in this patients. For that reason, it should be done a systematic screening for suicidal ideation in this risk population.