

e-Poster viewing: Suicidology and suicide prevention

EV1457

The application of the attitudes towards suicide questionnaire (ATTS) in Tunisian elderly

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Introduction According to WHO, suicide is a major public health problem and the most affected age group by suicide in Tunisia is that of over 70 years.

Aims To study the perception of the Tunisian elderly of suicide.

Methods A cross-sectional study was conducted during a 3-month period from October to December 2015. Fifty persons aged at least 65 years participated to the study. We used an anonymous questionnaire with a specific scale: "Attitudes Towards Suicide Questionnaire" (ATTS).

Results The mean age of our patients was 67.5 years. Sex ratio was 1.27. Most of the participants were married (82%), unemployed (63.2%), with a secondary or high educational level (62%), and low income (73.5%). All participants were believers. As for religious practice, 74.5% of the recruited elderly made the fast and 73.5% were prayers. Among women, 70.8% wore the veil. Concerning the perception of suicide, it was on the dimension of "permissiveness" ($M = 1.88$) that our participants agreed less. Those who made prayers had lower scores of "permissiveness" ($P = 0.032$). Women who wore the veil had higher scores on the field of "incomprehensibility" than the unveiled ones ($P = 0.047$). Furthermore, 68% of our participants believed that suicide is stigmatizing.

Conclusions It might be time to try to lift the taboo and stigma through information and sensitizing campaigns on suicide. In this direction, studies of perception help to identify, somehow, "automatic thoughts" regarding representations of suicide and to try to develop an "alternative thinking" in the general population.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.1787>

EV1458

Algeria, from social issue to self-immolation; autopsy of a "fashionable" suicide

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Introduction Self-immolation has been practised for several centuries in some cultures. Tolerated by Mahayana Buddhism and Hinduism. It is practised for many reasons: Sati (rituals), political protests, devotion and renouncement. In addition, it is also observed in some warrior cultures, like Rajputs.

The self-immolation trend began in Tunisia during government protests ("Arab spring" revolution) when a man named Bouazizi set himself on fire and died. Fiery copycat suicides spread throughout other countries. Algeria has also discovered this form of protest and faced a wave of self-immolation considered by some commentators to have reached epidemic proportions.

Objective Our goal is to show the kind of support that political and health authorities, with the help of psychiatrists, are trying to set up in order to achieve efficient prevention.

Methods In a case-control study, 20 consecutive case of deliberate self-inflicted burns admitted to the regional burn centre

(Douera Hospital, Algeria) were compared with 20 controls who were selected from the community and matched by sex, age and living area. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM IV) Axis I (clinical disorders) and Axis II (personality and mental retardation) diagnoses were assessed via detailed clinical interview.

Results There have been 69 cases of self-immolation, with an average age of 26 including 87% of men and from which 13% with a psychiatric history. Unemployment and housing crisis are the most common causes. Here, we will provide specific explanations about our country.

Conclusion It turns out that self-immolation is an extreme form of protest against the social malaise to make things change and does not due in the most cases to mental disease.

Disclosure of interest The author has not supplied his/her declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.1788>

EV1459

Role of alcohol use in suicidal behavior in public places

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Introduction Suicide in public places is a relatively common emergency in which alcohol use could be a factor involved.

Methods A total of 169 patients were attended for SB in Madrid public places by SAMUR (Municipal assistance service for emergency and rescue) and transferred to FJD emergency room where all of them were assessed by the psychiatrist on duty. For all (but 47 of them), blood alcohol level was measured and other variables were collected: age, sex, history of suicide attempt and characteristic of the attempt. A descriptive analysis was made and then differences between those using alcohol and those not was made.

Results Our sample comprises 169 patients, 40.2% woman and 59.8% man (median age = 39.36 years). Alcohol was measured in 122 patients, being positive in 52.4% (median alcohol level = 95.09 mg/dL). We found that 64.6% of man had consumed alcohol against the 30.2% of women ($P = 0.000$). 64.8% of alcohol users were discharged, against the 35.2% that not users. We admitted 28.1% of the alcohol users and 56.8% of the non-users ($P = 0.007$). We did not found statistically significance differences when compared patients that consumed against patients who did not regarding previous attempts, behavior (ideation, intent, non suicidal self-harm) and method.

Conclusions When assessed SB, we found that most of the patients were man under the alcohol influence and most of them were discharged after being evaluated. The data does not reflect the seriousness of the SB, which opens the possibility of correlating the levels of alcohol with suicidal risk.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2017.01.1789>

EV1460

Psychological autopsies, suicide and psychopathological significance (Results of a survey of mental health from 2000 to 2008 in east of Algeria)

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