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EV0911

A Study of empathy in Romanian general nursing students

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Introduction Empathy is of most importance in the medical field. The ability to comprehend and connect with the emotional state of another person is essential for establishing a successful interaction between patients and health care professionals.

Objectives The aim of this study was to assess empathic response in general nursing (GN) students.

Methods The study was conducted between 2015–2016 on 75, sixth-year Romanian GN undergraduates from the Timisoara “Victor Babes” university of medicine and pharmacy. To evaluate the level of empathy, we used the empathy quotient (EQ), a 60-item self-report inventory with 40 questions empathy-related and 20 filler questions.

Results We included in this study 12 (16%) males and 63 (84%) females, with a mean age of 23.48 years (SD = 2.17). Female GN students had significantly higher EQ mean scores than the general female population. Compared to female students, males obtained significantly lower EQ mean scores. There were no significant differences between male and female students regarding age distribution.

Conclusions Female GN students showed greater empathy than their male colleagues, as well as than the general female population. These results support the theory on women’s understanding of others mental states, vital to the provision of a worthy nursing care.

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EV0912

Cognitive emotional regulation in Romanian general medicine students

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Introduction During medical school, students experience significant amounts of stress. Since certain emotion regulatory strategies are known to be maladaptive, the way in which students are capable to regulate their emotions becomes very important, because it can affect their physical and mental welfare.

Objectives The purpose of this study was to assess cognitive emotion regulation strategies in Romanian general medicine (GM) students.

Methods The study was conducted between 2015–2016 on 86 sixth-year Romanian GM undergraduates from the Timisoara “Victor Babes” university of medicine and pharmacy. In order to identify the cognitive emotion regulation strategies (or cognitive coping strategies) that students use after experiencing negative situations or life events we used the Romanian version of the cognitive emotion regulation questionnaire (CERQ).

Results The sample consisted of 30 (34.9%) males and 56 (65.1%) females, with ages ranging between 24 and 31 years (mean age = 24.97 years, SD = 1.74). Compared to female students, males obtained significantly lower mean scores in “umination” ($t = -2.84$,

$P = 0.005$, 95% CI = -1.64; -0.29), “positive refocusing” ($t = -2.09$, $P = 0.037$, 95% CI = -1.42; -0.04) and “catastrophizing” ($t = -3.17$, $P = 0.002$, 95% CI = -1.31; -0.3). Both male and female GM students had significantly higher mean scores in “blaming others” than their respectively gender-related general population.

Conclusions Results of this study suggest that GM students, when facing stressful or negative events, are more inclined in using “blaming others” as a coping strategy. Female students seem to be more inclined than males to use “rumination”, “catastrophizing” and “positive refocusing” as cognitive coping mechanisms.

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EV0913

Antipsychotic-induced hyperprolactinemia

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Introduction As antipsychotic agents are increasingly used, many patients are at risk for antipsychotic-induced hyperprolactinemia.

Aims of the study Estimate the prevalence of hyperprolactinemia in patients treated by a single antipsychotic and identify the risk factors for its occurrence.

Methods This is a prospective study carried out at the psychiatric department of psychiatry of university hospital of Mahdia during 24 months. We have included all patients with a follow up and treated by single antipsychotic for at least 12 weeks. A pituitary MRI has been requested for patients with a prolactin level higher than 100 ng/ml.

Results We have collected 92 patients. Hyperprolactinemia was found in 34.8% of patients among which 7.6% have had prolactin level greater than 150 ng/ml. Pituitary MRI have revealed 2 cases of macro-adenoma. The decrease of the antipsychotic doses has significantly improved prolactin levels. The switch of antipsychotic with another less inducing hyperprolactinemia has significantly decreased prolactin levels. 7 factors were correlated significantly to hyperprolactinemia: sex (female), substance use, presence of side effects, combination of psychotropic drugs, atypical antipsychotics, type of antipsychotic: Haloperidol and amisulpride, antipsychotic dose greater than 1000 mg Chlorpromazine equivalent.

Conclusion Hyperprolactinemia must be carefully identified, through a pre-therapeutic assessment and monitoring of patients.

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EV0914

Hyperinsulinism as evidence of munchausen syndrome by proxy: A case report

A case report

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Introduction Hyperinsulinism is one of the most important causes of hypoglycemia. Rarely, drug toxicity can be a reason. In the context of Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSBP), toxicity usually occurs in children due to drug administration by a parent or caregiver.

Methods we report a case of a 2-year-old girl with hyperinsulinemic hypoglycaemia due to insulin injections by her mother.

Case report Mrs. W. is a 28-year-old mother of three children. In her medical history, she was diagnosed with gestational diabetes and treated briefly with insulin. She was hospitalized several times for hypoglycemia and she was diagnosed with factitious disorder. Lately, her youngest daughter aged 2 years old was hospitalized in the pediatric department for repeated unexplained loss of consciousness. The hospitalization lasted 2 months with recurrence of severe hypoglycemia. A full metabolic screen revealed no abnormalities. The mood of the mother appeared quite discordant with the situation. Strict monitoring of maternal behavior showed that the mother gives insulin injections to her daughter. She denied deliberately injecting insulin, and then she accused the health workers. She was referred to our psychiatric department and we diagnosed the MSBP.

Conclusion MSBP should be considered particularly in patients who have been evaluated by more than one hospital and have discordant test results.

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EV0915

Which one is the best anaesthetic agent for Ect?

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Introduction The most frequently used anesthesiologic agents are methohexital, thiopental, etomidate, propofol, ketamine, and sevoflurane. The objective is to clarify the differences on recovery, cardiovascular variables, cognitive functions, and response to treatment showed by these drugs.

Methods A review was conducted aiming to clarify the differences between anaesthetic agents used in ECT. The literature search was conducted in PubMed data reviewing articles dating between 2015 and 2016.

Results – Propofol seems to have better hemodynamic effects in comparison with etomidate in patients with schizophrenia and depression;

– The seizure duration was significantly shorter with propofol, but this did not cause a difference regarding clinical improvement;

– The seizure duration was longer with etomidate in many studies. It did not decrease in a dose-dependent fashion with etomidate in a study comparing methohexital, etomidate, and propofol;

– The most frequently observed adverse effects were arrhythmias and nausea and they occurred more frequently in patients who were given thiopental. The pain at the injection site was more frequent in patients who were given propofol;

– Etomidate seems to have better clinical improvement than thiopental. Thiopental seems to have better results than propofol, which has an anticonvulsant feature effects.

Conclusions In order to figure out which anaesthetic agent was the most indicated for undergoing ECT, we found that both EEG-based seizure duration and motor seizure duration showed the sequence etomidate>methohexital>thiopental>propofol. These items are directly related with clinical improvement. When a drug is chosen, it is important to individualize the treatment according to the patients' comorbidity.

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EV0916

Neuroacanthocytosis syndromes and neuropsychiatry symptoms associated

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Introduction Neuroacanthocytosis is an infrequent cause of both neurological and psychiatric manifestations, and acanthocytes, which are a special form of spiculated red blood cells. Clinically significant psychopathology, ranging from behavioural disturbance to frank psychiatric illness, has been reported to occur in up to 60% of ChAc patients.

Methods A review was conducted aiming to clarify the pathophysiology of this illness and its clinical features in order to distinguish neuroacanthocytosis from other neurological or psychiatric diseases. The literature search was conducted in PubMed data reviewing articles dating between 2010 and 2016.

Results – Neuroacanthocytosis autosomal recessive disorder associated with mutations or deletions in the VPS13A gene on chromosome 9q, which codes for the membrane protein chorein. Chorein is strongly expressed in the brain. Chorein loss particularly affects the basal ganglia, especially the caudate nucleus and putamen;

– Dysexecutive syndromes, OCD, depression and possibly psychosis, which may precede the frank motor and cognitive impairment;

– The most recently developed treatment for neuroacanthocytoses is the use of deep-brain stimulation (DBS), with stimulation of the globus pallidus internus.

Conclusions While conducting a neurological exam, secondary causes of psychosis have to be included in the differential diagnosis. It is important to notice the possible confusion between tardive dyskinesia and a primary movement disorder. It should be necessary to investigate all de novo movement disorders in psychotic patients in order to eliminate etiologies other than iatrogenic ones.

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A review about comorbidity between obsessive-compulsive symptoms and huntington disease and a case report

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Introduction The concept of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) as a disorder that affects the basal ganglia arising to the phenomenological similarities found between idiopathic OCD and other conditions associated with basal ganglia disease such as Huntington's disease (HD) and Sydenham's chorea. Huntingtong's disease is characterized by cognitive, motor and neuropsychiatric symptoms.

Aims A review of articles published from 1989 to 2016 in PubMed and UpToDate about relationship between HD and obsessive-compulsive symptoms.