

Prevalence of depressive symptoms in physically ill elderly inpatients

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This study aimed to determine the rate of depressive symptoms in a sample of 546 inpatient physically ill elderly Egyptian patients. The geriatric depression scale was used to detect depressive symptoms and SCID I interview based on DSM III-R was used to diagnose depressive disorders. Also, the short portable mental state questionnaire was used to test the orientation, recent and remote memory as well as the activities of daily living scale to measure the functional status of the patients. It was found that 79.2% of the patients had depressive symptoms in contrast to only 43% mounting to depressive disorder. The rule of depressive disorder was the highest at the age of 60-65 as it reached up to 22%. It was also found that depression was significantly related to heart failure, renal failure, liver failure, cerebrovascular stroke and cancer, however, it was highly significantly related to hypertension. On the other hand, an insignificant statistical relation was found between depression and parkinsonism, diabetes mellitus, peptic ulcer, chest disease, visual and hearing handicap and memory impairment or early dementia as well as with the degree of disability.