

**Clinical characteristics of the psychiatric emergency room of Ain-Shams University
Hospital : Early results of an epidemiological study**

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This study was conducted to assess the clinical characteristics of cases presented to the emergency room (ER) in order to highlight the determinants of decision-making within the ER. The study covered a period of six months from February to July 1992. The most common presentation included disturbed behavior mainly in the form of excitement and aggressive tendencies. The main diagnoses were schizophrenia, conversion disorder, substance use disorder and major depression. The decision to hospitalize depends mainly upon the diagnosis and the presence of recent violence. Males were more in number and younger in age. Disposition increased with previous psychiatric history, previous history of hospitalization and non-availability of senior psychiatrist.