

Assessment of knowledge and attitudes of families of psychotic patients towards mental illness in Ismailia

El-Dafrawi, Muhammad H.

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A total of 282 accompanied members of families of patients with psychoses attending psychiatric treatment facilities in Ismailia was interviewed to elicit their knowledge and attitudes about the identified patient's mental illness. 55% of the patients were accompanied by their first degree relatives, followed by second (22.5%) and third degree relatives (22.5%). TV (37.5%) and physicians (37.5%) were the main source of knowledge about mental illness. The knowledge about the patient's diagnosis was significantly associated with the educational level of relatives. 50% of those with secondary educational level reported that mental illness is a neuropsychiatric disease. Self-neglect (75%), talking to one self (75%), meaningless speech (62.5%) and bizarre behaviors (62.5%) were among the highest frequent perceived psychotic manifestations reported by relatives to increase the stigma. While, 87.5% of the relatives reported that psychotic mental disorders are caused by disturbed family relationships, 75% reported that the psychotic patient can not work and is likely to be violent (75%) and the antipsychotic drugs lead to addiction (75%). Moreover, the relatives expressed positive attitudes (87.5%) indicating that family support has a great role in treatment ; however, 62.5% expressed their negative attitudes that they will not marry a mentally-ill patient, although more than 50% reported that the illness improves with treatment.