

Attempted suicide in schizophrenia

El-Mahallawi, N. M.

The Egyptian Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Neurosurgery (Print)

1997 v34 n1

This work aimed to study the attempted suicide in schizophrenia and try to determine the risk factors. All schizophrenic inpatients according to ICD-10 criteria in the Institute of Psychiatry during August 1996 were interviewed and assessed using SANS, SAPS, HDRS and a structured data sheet to investigate the suicidal feelings and attempts.

The results showed that 17 of 41 schizophrenics (41%) had a history of attempted suicide. Attempted suicide results either from psychotic pictures (60%) or depressed mood (60%). The mean duration of illness was 4.3 + or- 1.2 years.

Previous psychiatric hospital admission prior to attempted suicide constituted 70% of cases. The study concluded that the risk of suicide is high in schizophrenia.

Attempted suicide in schizophrenia is secondary to psychotic picture or depressed mood. Psychiatric hospital admission increases the risk of suicide.