

Depressive disorders among a sample of Egyptian old patients in a medical ward

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Subjects 100 elderly Egyptian patients of both sexes aged 55 years or above with no cognitive impairment, suffering from a chronic medical illness and were admitted in Internal Medicine Ward at the time of the study. The subjects were classified into two groups (control and depressed group), 50 subjects each. The depressed group subjects were further classified into major (n=18) and non-major depression subgroups (n=32). Diagnostic criteria of the DSM-IV TR were used for the diagnosis of depressive disorders. SMMSE was used for assessment of the cognitive functioning (subjects scoring <24 were excluded). Socio-demographic variables were collected. Subjective social support and actual social support (number of children and siblings seen in the past month, number of current friends, presence of family conflicts), elder mistreatment, religious activities, recent bereavement, past history of depression, sexual functioning.