

Suicidal thoughts and associated factors in elderly population

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The study was done to examine the prevalence of suicidal thoughts and to determine the factors associated with the suicidal thoughts. Elderly population aged 60 years and were studied and the study aimed to search for psychiatric advice in psychiatric outpatient clinic and psychiatric inpatient department in Zagazig University Hospital during the period of 1/11/1997 to 31/10/1998. They were subjected to comprehensive psychopathological Rating Scale (CPRS) to detect suicidal thoughts, DSM-1V criteria for major depressive episode, MMSE and Sociodemographic data. Statistical analysis of the results was done. It was found that 13.7% of the subjects had suicidal thoughts according to CPRS and there was significant correlation between suicidal thoughts and existence of major depressive episode, scoring less than 24 points on the MMSE, history of previous suicide attempts, advanced age, physical illness, not working, recent socioeconomic stresses, marital state and the percentage of suicidal thoughts were higher among persons living alone more than instituted subjects who are more than persons who are living among their families. No significant correlation was founds regards to residence, education and sex.