

# **The prevalence of psychiatric disorders in a sample of geriatric population**

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High prevalence rates of psychiatric illness and high level of behavior disturbances have been reported in several national and international studies (Class CA, 1996), (Lotief F et. al, 1999). In this study, the authors are trying to identify the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among subjects aged above sixty. The sample was 720 subjects who attended a private outpatient's clinics during a period of 13 months. Baseline diagnosis was obtained by qualified psychiatrists.

The prevalence of psychiatric disorders was high 47.5%. The majority of them suffered from depression (35.1% recurrent depressive disorder, 19% dysthymia). Other disorders included dementia 22.8%, psychosis 7% and anxiety 1.7%. The authors suggested that a major challenge in the next century will create a health care system that integrates primary health care and mental health care for older people.