

Psychiatric disorders, personality disorders and other risk factors among suicidal attempt survivals

El-Tantawi, A. Yousuf, E. Raya, Y. El-Yahya, A. Zaki, A.

Current Psychiatry. Ain Shams University (Print)

2008 v15 n1

Out of those who attempted self-harm and survived, many actually wanted to die and many did not. Presently, no distinctive characteristics exist for these two groups, which cause difficulty in understanding as well as in management. We compared the characteristics of the two groups to identify factors that explain the high suicide risk among attempted suicide patients. Ninety seven patients who had attempted suicide (63 female and 34 male) were assessed for psychiatric and personality disorders according to ICD-10 criteria. A semi-structured interview schedule and standardized questionnaires were used to investigate patients' background characteristics, the circumstances of the suicide attempts and psychological characteristics. The two groups were different in factors such as age, psychiatric and personality disorders, intentionality, lethality, mode, motive to kill oneself, past/family history, stress and precaution to prevent detection before and/or after the act. Psychiatric and personality disorders were present in 85.7% of the failed suicide group versus 73.7% of the Deliberate Self Harm group. Those who cause harm to themselves but survive can be distinctly put into two groups: (I) the 'Failed Suicide' group (FS); persons really want to die but survive and (II) the 'Deliberate Self ?Harm' group (DSH); persons do not actually want to die. Comorbidity of psychiatric and personality disorders may contribute to greater suicide risk that should be addressed in an effort to reduce suicide risk.