A Prospective study of suicide attempts focused on lethality and risk factors

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ABSTRACT

A suicide attempt is defined as a self-inflicted, potentially injurious behavior with a nonfatal outcome for which there is evidence of intent to die. Suicidal thoughts or behavior are not limited to any single diagnostic group or condition. Death by suicide occurs with distressing frequency among many different illnesses, including mood disorders, substance use disorders, schizophrenia, and personality disorders.

A *risk factor* is a characteristic, variable, or hazard that increases the likelihood of development of an adverse outcome, which is measurable, and which precedes the outcome.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to identify risk and protective factors; define deadliness and severity of the attempt.

METHODS

This is a prospective and observational study based on 54 patients admitted in the emergency department of "Sanatorio Parque", Rosario, Santa Fe. The data were collected in a period of 12 months (January 2016- December 2016). We design a questionnaire to administrate to each patient with suicide- behavior to define risk assessment. The data were analyzed through the PSPP-Linux software.

RESULTS

- There are many factors that can be taken into consideration to define the risk of a suicide attempt. A history of prior attempt, repentance, psychiatric history, etc.
- This report presents representative data on the protective and risk factors of attempted suicide in an Argentinian population.

		Female	Male
N		43 (80%)	11 (20%)
AGE (mean)		31	43
Marital Satatus	Couple	11 (20%)	5 (9%)
	Single	32 (60%)	6 (11%)
Work	Yes	18	8
	No	25	3
Psychiatric History	Yes	33	7
	No	10	4
Family History of Suicidal Attempt	Yes	12	5
	No	31	6

CONCLUSIONS

- 80% were women.
- The majority of the patients were single and had psychiatric history.
- Most of the attempts were over the weekend.
- Risk Factors highlighted: age < 20 years old, living alone and family issues as trigger factors.
- >Lethality: >45 years old, attempt between 0-12 hours; stressful event and chronic disease as trigger factors.
- These results might be useful for further investigations.

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