CAUSES OF ASSULTATIVE BEHAVIOR AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSYCHOSIS- DECONSTRUCTING THE SYNDROM OF VIOLENCE

JAN VEVERA^{1, 2,4}, ANDREA NICHTOVÁ^{2,3,4}, LADISLAV KAŽMÉR², KATEŘINA PŘÍHODOVÁ², TEREZA PŘÍHODOVÁ², VERONIKA JURÍČKOVÁ²,

¹,DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY , FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PILSEN, ²NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, TOPOLOVÁ 748, 250 67 KLECANY, ³PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL BOHNICE, ÚSTAVNÍ 91, ⁴1st FACULTY OF OF MEDICINE, CHARLES UNIVERSITY

This study examined factors motivating patient aggression upon the admission to the wards of one university and two state hospitals.

Methods: The authors used a semi structured interview “ The Assaults Interview Checklist” to elicit reasons for assaults from assailants and their treating psychiatrist and nurses (who were most often victims of the attacks). Based on this interview Aggressive episodes were categorized as impulsive, planed, or psychotic. Further, factor analysis was conducted to revealed latent variables.

Results: A total of 448 assaults committed by 188 newly admitted inpatients were evaluated. The majority of patients were aggressive during the first day of their hospitalization. All participants were Caucasian and spoke Czech as their primary language. Consensus clinical ratings indicated that **58% of the assaults were directly driven by positive psychotic symptoms**, 16% were evaluated as a combination of the psychotic and disordered impulse control symptoms and **26% of all attacks were labeled as impulsive**. Only 4 assaults were planned (0,2%).

Conclusions: These findings indicate that assaultive behavior among hospitals in patients with psychosis is primary driven by psychotic symptoms and disordered impulse control. Because each type of assault requires a different management, characterizing aggressive behavior is crucial in determining treatment interventions. While antipsychotics are essential for persistent psychotic attacks, anxiolytics and psychotherapeutic treatment might be used for acute impulsive attacks

	Patients N=188	
The main motivational influence	Number of attacks	%
Psychosis	258	57,60%
Psychosis + Impulsivity	73	16,3%
Impulsivity	116	25,90%
Planned	1	0,20%
Total	448	100%

The Assaults Interview Checklist		
Variables		
(1)	Hallucinations	25.7%
(2)	Delusions	60.3%
(3)	Psychotic misinterpretation	58.3%
(4)	Provocation ^{a)}	42.2%
(5)	Remorse	59.8%
(6)	Amnesia	38.6%
(7)	Partial denial	20.0%
(8)	Psychopathy ^{b)}	0.9%
a) The occurrence of at least one of three items : provoked by the victim, ordered to do something, request refused.		
b) The occurrence of at least one of two items 1. planned attack 2. predatory gain.		