

Demographic Analysis of Suicide Victims Presenting to The Emergency Department with Drug-induced Intoxication

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Abstract

Objective: To investigate the demographic data of patients who applied to our clinic with suicide attempt between the years 2014 and 2016.

Materials and Methods: The patients with suicidal attempt were analyzed retrospectively. The demographic characteristics of the patients such as gender, age, marital status, residence address and the way of suicide attempt, occupations, educational status and treatment modalities in emergency department were examined and discussed.

Results: A total of 79 patients were included in the study. The mean age of the study group was 25.2 years and the standard deviation was 9.2. Forty two of the patients (53.2%) used more than one type of drugs and 37 patients (46.8%) used single drug. At the emergency medicine follow up, 81% (n: 64) of the patients were applied gastric lavage as well as active charcoal and IV drip, while gastric lavage and active charcoal was applied to 3.8% (n: 3), only gastric lavage was applied to 2.5% (n: 2) and only active charcoal was applied to 2.5% (n: 2). Patients with IV drip and active charcoal combined were 5.1% (n: 4) and also only IV drip was applied to 5.1% (n: 4).

Conclusion: It is clear that the first attempts are very important in psychological and physiological aspects. Although there is not enough study, these units in which emergency interventions are carried out are units that may have serious effects on survival rates.

Keywords: demographics, drug Intoxication, suicide.

Özet

Amaç: Bu çalışmanın amacı 2014 - 2016 yılları arasında kliniğimize intihar girişimi ile başvuran hastaların demografik verilerini araştırmaktır.

Gereç ve Yöntem: İntihar girişimi olan hastalar geriye dönük olarak incelendi. Hastaların cinsiyet, yaş, medeni hal, ikametgah adresi, intihar girişim şekli, meslek, eğitim durumu ve tedavi yöntemleri gibi demografik özellikleri incelenmiş ve tartışılmıştır.

Bulgular: Çalışmaya toplam 79 hasta dâhil edildi. Çalışma grubunun yaş ortalaması 25.2, standart sapma 9.2 idi. Hastaların 40'ı (% 53,2) birden fazla ilaç türü, 37'si (% 46,8) tek tip ilaç kullanmıştı. Acil servis takiplerinde hastaların % 81'ine (n: 64) gastrik lavaj, aktif kömür ve IV tedavi birlikte verilmişti, % 3.8'ine (n: 3) gastrik lavaj ve aktif kömür, % 2.5'ine (n: 2) sadece gastrik lavaj ve % 2.5'e (n: 2) ise yalnızca aktif kömür uygulanmıştı. IV terapi ve aktif kömür birlikte alanların oranı % 5.1 (n: 4) ve sadece IV terapi alanların oranı %5.1'di (n: 4).

Sonuç: İlk intihar girişimlerinin psikolojik ve fizyolojik açıdan çok önemli olduğu açıktır. Yeterli çalışma olmamasına rağmen, ilk müdahalelerinin yapıldığı acil servisler, hayatta kalma oranları üzerinde ciddi etkileri olabilecek yerlerdir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: intihar, ilaç zehirlenmesi, demografik analizler

Introduction

A suicide attempt can occur in the normal population and also in people with a psychiatric disorder and may sometimes be fatal. The occurrence of a high number of cases requires studies to be carried out on this issue and prevention of suicidal attempts by protecting risk groups.

In order to contribute to these studies, we aimed to investigate the demographic data of patients who applied to our clinic with suicide attempt between 2014-2016.

Materials and Methods

This study was carried out between 2014 and 2016 in Erzurum Atatürk University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine with the examination of patients that attempts suicide. 79 patients were included in this study and their demographic characteristics such as educational status, occupations, ways of suicide attempt and treatment modalities were discussed.

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Results

77.2% (n: 61) of the cases were female. The youngest of the individuals were 16 years old and the oldest was 64 years old. The mean age of the study group was 25.2 years and the standard deviation was 9.2 [mean: 25,2, SD:9,2]. While the marital status of 45.6% (n: 36) of all cases was married, 51.9% (n: 41) were single, and one of the remaining 2 were widowed and one was divorced. 54.4% of the cases (n: 43) were living in the city center while 15.2% were living in the district and 10.1% were living in the rural areas. 20.3% (n: 16) patients were referred from out of the city. The occupations of the cases are given in table 1. In Table 1, the group with no occupation was grouped as “other” and these cases accounted for 57% (n: 45) of the study group.

Of the 79 patients who had committed suicide with drugs, 53.2% (n: 42) used more than one type of drugs and 46.8% (n: 37) used single drug. When we look at the education level of the patients that included in this study, 19 people were graduated from university and 19 people were graduated from high school and 26 people were primary school graduates. While 4 people had literacy, 11 people had not literacy.

Patients were also evaluated in terms of treatment in the emergency department. 81% (n: 64) of the patients were applied gastric lavage as well as active charcoal and IV drip, while gastric lavage and active charcoal was applied to 3.8%

(n: 3), only gastric lavage was applied to 2.5% (n: 2) and only active charcoal was applied to 2.5% (n: 2). Patients with IV drip and active charcoal combined were 5.1% (n: 4) and also only IV drip was applied to 5.1% (n: 4).

Discussion

The suicide attempt of a person is caused by many factors, both socially and psychological. The complex nature of the suicide pattern leads to research and, consequently, to study on measures. The fact that it can result in death forces this situation to accept that it is a social phenomenon. In Turkey, women constitute more suicide case both in terms of number of attempts and in terms of mortality¹. Bercz and Bercz’s friends found that suicide rates were 3 to 4 times higher in males than females².

A study by Gönenç showed that suicide attempts were more frequent in singles with a rate of 56.3%. Also in our study group, suicide of singles was similar with 51.9%³. In the study which Acar examined the suicide cases who applied to the emergency room, it is stated that the suicides were mostly the single individuals (50%), however, it is stated that a significant percentage of married people (31%)

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Driver	2	2,5	2,5	2,5
Bank staff	2	2,5	2,5	5,1
Military staff	4	5,1	5,1	10,1
Secretary	3	3,8	3,8	13,9
Worker	4	5,1	5,1	19,0
Teacher	2	2,5	2,5	21,5
Craft	5	6,3	6,3	27,8
Midwife	3	3,8	3,8	31,6
Veterinary	2	2,5	2,5	34,2
Farmer	2	2,5	2,5	36,7
Security guard	1	1,3	1,3	38,0
Accountant	2	2,5	2,5	40,5
Medical Stuff	1	1,3	1,3	41,8
Unqualified worker	1	1,3	1,3	43,0
Other	45	57,0	57,0	100,0
Total	79	100,0	100,0	

Table 1. Occupational distribution of patients with suicide attempt

applied to the emergency department due to suicide, too⁴. In another study, the risk of suicide was found to be 11 times higher in divorced or separated individuals⁵. In our study, as seen in many studies, more than half of those who commit suicide are younger than 35 years^{6,7}. In accordance with the literature, a study carried out in our country reports that 59% of suicide cases applied to the emergency department are in the 16-24 age group⁸. In our study, 50 patients (63.4%) were in this age group. In another study, the age range of the most suicide cases applied to the emergency department has been reported to vary between 25-34⁹.

Conclusion

Suicide cases are frequently admitted to emergency services and 112 ambulance service. It is clear that the first attempts are very important in psychological and physiological aspects. Although there is not enough study, these units in which emergency interventions are carried out are units that may have serious effects on survival rates.

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