POSTER PRESENTATION

Hysteria: the road to extinction?

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Abstract

Introduction: Hysteria is undoubtedly one of the first mental disorders attributable to human beings. It has been accurately described since the second millennium BC. Nowadays, the psychiatric terminology distinguishes two types of disorders that were previously labelled "hysteria": dissociative and conversion disorders.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the population of the General and Transcultural Psychiatry Clinic of CHPL and characterize this disorder.

Methods: The retrospective study consisted in analyzing records from 3862 patients hospitalized in the Clinic since 2007 until 2015, using descriptive statistical analysis techniques.

Results: From the analyzed population sample (n = 3862) we found that only 18 hospitalized patients were diagnosed as "Hysteria". Most of them were female (proportion female:male = 15:3), aged between 19 and 63 years. The majority (15) were natural from Portugal, 1 from Angola, 1 from Brazil and 1 from Cape Verde. Most of them had active work, recording only 5 retired and 1 unemployed. None of them had previous drugs consumption and just 1 had alcohol consumption. 11 of them have been followed previously in Psychiatry (consultations and hospitalizations). The hospital admissions were mostly voluntary (17) and the main reasons were: Behavior alterations (6), hetero-aggressiveness (4), psychomotor agitation (2), suicidal ideation (4), aphonia (1) and mutism (1). At the admission, only 4 patients had the probable diagnosis of "hysteria". We also found that the majority of the patients had an admission diagnosis of Mood Disorder.

Discussion and Conclusions: From the analyzed data we were able to characterize the population that would be classifiable as hysteric, finding that the diagnosis would still represent a minority of patients (0,39%), being 80% of these females. Cultural issues were not considered as the vast majority of the studied population was natural from Portugal.

Supplementary material: Complete presentation available at http://ijcnmh.arc-publishing.org

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