

TITLE OF ABSTRACT: A study of the clinical, socioeconomic and psychological impact of deliberate self-harm by poisoning in patients presenting to a tertiary care center in South India

DEPARTMENT: General Medicine

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OBJECTIVES:

To determine the long term clinical, social and psychological outcome in deliberate self-harm (DSH) due to poisoning

METHODS:

STUDY DESIGN: Observational cohort study from July 2016 to July 2017

CLINICAL METHODS: Medical records of poisoning admissions between 2009-14 (437 cases) were reviewed. Patients were interviewed on telephone with verbal consent and requested to come to CMC hospital for a detailed assessment of their clinical, psychological, social, and economic status.

STATISTICAL METHODS: The data entry forms were designed using epidata manager and data entry was done using the epidata entry client. Chi-square/ Fisher's exact test was used to assess the association between the variables.

RESULTS:

Telephonic study (100 patients):

24% had new physical symptoms. 8% had PHQ2 score of >3 (depression present). Proportion married increased (65% to 86%) and unemployed reduced (44% to 30%) between poisoning and follow-up. 47% had expressed financial difficulty. 4 patients had a successful repeat suicide attempt (4%).

Clinical evaluation (20 patients):

5 had peripheral neuropathy and 3 upper airway obstruction. Seven had a GHQ score >3 (presence of a psychiatric illness).

Conclusion:

Poisoning related DSH has low physical morbidity, good psychological and social outcomes and low rates of repeat attempt.

KEYWORDS: suicide, deliberate self-harm, parasuicide, repetition of suicide, poisoning, socioeconomic, psychological, clinical outcomes