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Topic: EPV35 - e-Poster 35: Suicidology and suicide prevention

Suicide Across the Lifespan

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Introduction: Suicide risk assessment is an essential part of general and forensic psychiatric practice. Psychiatrists must be able to evaluate specific clinical, demographic, and psychosocial risk factors in this process. Age represents an important demographic risk factor for suicide. In the United States, suicide rates among adolescents and young adults have been increasing, with rates that are almost three times higher than in the 1950s.

Results: Recent reports show an increase in suicide rates in middle aged populations as well. Suicide rates remain highest for older adults. The relationship between age and suicide risk is complex, and psychiatrists need to recognize the psychosocial and biological risk factors associated with different age groups.

Method/Objective/Aims: The presenter will review suicide risk assessment in the context of different stages of life: adolescence and young adulthood, mid-adulthood, and advanced age, outlining the risk factors unique to the different stages. The presentation will also address how cultural factors and gender may affect risk assessment across different age groups.

Conclusion: The presenter will discuss the management of suicidal risk as it pertains to the different age groups.