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PREVALANCE OF PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS IN ELDERLY VETERANS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH GENERAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS

N. Mokhber¹, M.R. Azarpazhooh¹, E. Esmaeeli Shandiz¹, J. Hanaee²

¹Mashhad University of Medical Science, ²Iranian Marty and Veteran Foundation, Mashhad, Iran

Background: War is a major effective factor on general health and its morbidity and mortality have constant psychosomatic effects. In this study we aimed to assess psychological signs of Iranian elderly veterans in order to improve their health.

Method: In this cross-sectional-descriptive study, we analyzed the psychological signs of elderly veterans of Khorasan Razavi province in 2009.

We studied 123 old veterans under coverage of Marty and Veteran Foundation.

Our cases were selected randomly and data were gathered using SCL-90-R,

MMSE and GDS questionnaires. We also had a total medical examination and a

Psychiatric interview form for all of the participants.

Results: The most prevalent psychological signs according to SCL-90-R Questionnaires were the following: somatization 84.4%, anxiety 66.7% and Hostility 57.8%. According to GDS test the prevalence of depression signs among old veterans were 50.4%, and according to MMSE test the prevalence of cognitive disorder in this old population was 17.1%. There was a significant relationship between the prevalence of respiratory and vestibulo-auditory diseases with the rate of psychological signs. We also found a relationship between the prevalence of respiratory and skin diseases with depression, and prevalence of neurological diseases with cognitive impairment.

Conclusion: 36.6% prevalence of psychiatric signs in the old veterans shows the need for special attention to this group of society.