

PW01-197 - **SOCIAL SUPPORT IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC COMBAT RELATED PTSD IN CROATIA**

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Objective: The main aim of this research is to evaluate the connection of various components of social support with chronic posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). We set up hypothesis that the level of the perceived social support mediates beneficial effects on various PTSD symptoms. Second hypothesis states that perceived social support is in positive connection with quality of life.

Methods: 246 outpatients with chronic combat related PTSD participated in this study. On the base of different questionnaires we examined social support, quality of life and PTSD symptomatology (Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support- MSPSS, Trauma symptoms inventory -TSI-A, World Health Organization Quality Of Life-BREF). We tried to identify three main factors of social support by factor analysis of MSPSS. Those factors were used in logistic and multiple regression analysis in order to prove our hypothesis.

Results: In contrast to other researchers, we defined only two factors in MSPSS: "family support" explaining 52.9% of total variability and "peer support" explaining 18.5% of total variability. These factors used as predictors were not shown significant in multiple regression analysis predicting the PTSD symptoms defined by TSI-A. However, the levels of perceived social support were positively correlated with all four domains of quality of life.

Conclusion: Our research shows that role of social support in chronic course of PTSD is questionable, possibly due to personality changes and secondary traumatization, which is being supported by other researchers emphasizing it's importance in the early course of PTSD.