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SUICIDE: 5-YEAR FOLLOW UP AMONG THE PSYCHIATRIC POPULATION OF AN ITALIAN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

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Objectives: Suicide remains the most severe emergency in every psychiatric disorder.

Methods: After evaluating the frequency of suicide among patients followed from 1-1-2004 to 31-12-2005 by the Mental Health Service of Modena Centro, we statistically analyzed socio-demographic and clinical data of suicide patients (n=25).

Results: Among psychiatric population followed by our psychiatric service in the observation period, suicide occurred in the 0.15% of all patients (25/16392) and represented the third cause of death, after cardiovascular disorders and neoplasia. The median age of suicide patients was 42 years for male and 50 years for women, with a ratio male/female of 1.8:1. "Depressive Disorders" followed by "Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders" represented the prevalent psychiatric diagnosis with a statistically significant correlation to suicide death cause ($p < 0.005$; Chi square test). The suicide patients had being treated for more than one year by psychiatric service (685 days, median) and 10 % of them was hospitalized in a psychiatric ward during the observation period. Suicide occurred after 73 days (median) from last psychiatric discharge and 12 days (median) from last psychiatric consultation.

Conclusions: Our data confirmed the literature: suicide is more frequent in young male affected by Depressive Disorders or Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders¹. We have to conclude pessimistically about our preventive capacity since suicide occurred in patients already hospitalized and treated for a long period and after a short period from the last psychiatric intervention.

1. Fawcett J. Treating impulsivity and anxiety in the suicidal patient. *Annals of New York Academic Science* 2001;932:94-105.