

## P01-377 - SEPARATED WARDS FOR THE ELDERLY IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS: THE PATIENT VIEW

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**Background:** At least at the larger hospitals specialised gero-psychiatric units have been introduced, usually taking care of those at age 65y and higher. The advantages of this approach have been discussed and examined. The patients' view has only rarely been investigated and mostly only from a single perspective (e.g. patient satisfaction on gero-psychiatric wards).

**Methods:** We performed semistructured qualitative interviews in our hospital in a balanced sample of (n=14) patients at 18-40y, (n=10) patients at 41-60y, (n=16) patients at 61-75y, (n=8) patients over 75y. There were (n=) 24 male and (n=) 24 female patients. 12 patients had been treated exclusively in old age psychiatry, and 10 patients had been treated in old age psychiatry after their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Results:** The majorities of the patients saw advantages in mixed sex and age care for the younger and for the older patients. Disadvantages were not seen for younger patients, however for the elderly the view was ambivalent (26 yes versus 22 no). Female and higher age patients and those with multiple hospitalisations tended to expect more disadvantages. While a mixed ward would be regarded as more (stimulating), disadvantages could be the combination of aggressive young and frail elderly patients as well as the overburdening of the staff.

**Conclusion:** This is the first investigation on patient view on the segregation of old age psychiatric patients. Further studies should lead to a consumer guided care provision allowing specialisation as well as defending ageism.