

P01-470

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL CONTEXT ON THE ACCULTURATIVE PROCESS:
ACCULTURATIVE STRESS IN LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

H.-W. Revollo¹, A. Qureshi², F. Collazos², M. Casas²

¹Psychiatry Service, ²Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

Introduction: The relationship between immigration and mental health may in part be affected by factors related to social context in general and in relation to specific ethnic groups in specific social contexts. A growing body of research is exploring the impact of neighborhood context on the well-being of immigrants. The specifics, however, have yet to be identified.

Aim: To analyze the impact of social context on stress and acculturative stress in a hospitalised Latin American immigrant sample.

Methods: The study was part of a larger project concerning stress, coping, and psychosocial well being in Latin American immigrants hospitalised in both internal medicine and obstetrics in a large public hospital in Barcelona (Spain). 290 participants were evaluated with the PSS-10 for general stress, the BISS for acculturative stress and a sociodemographic questionnaire elaborated ad hoc for social context.

Results: Neighborhood socioeconomic level is related to general stress and acculturative stress. A lower socioeconomic level is associated with higher levels of stress and acculturative stress. High levels of ethnic density of Latin American immigrants is moderately associated with lower levels of homesickness and intercultural contact stress, but are not related with perceived discrimination.

Conclusions: Social context is an important factor that should be considered in the acculturative process of Latin American immigrants and its impact on their mental health status. A low socioeconomic neighborhood level increases levels of stress and acculturative stress, increasing the risk of psychosocial distress.

Own group ethnic density would appear to function as a protective factor.