

COVID-19 and related topics 02

EPP0150

Motivation of medical employees in the context of the COVID pandemic

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Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has restructured the entire health care system. As systems of care were overwhelmed, many health professionals in related professional areas became increasingly involved in providing medical aid. We highlight a comparative analysis between two psychiatric wards of the same hospital, with qualified medical staff, with similar levels of competence, one of the wards caring for patients exclusively with major psychiatric pathologies, and the other patients with associated SARS-COV2 infection.

Objectives: Considering that motivation at work depends on a multitude of factors, in our case, stress related to contamination, situational anxiety generated by psychiatric patients who are partially inside on COVID infection, can decrease the motivation to perform a quality psychiatric medical act. Resilience and organizational civic behavior are instead variables with the role of maintaining professional motivation at an optimal level and enhancing dedication.

Methods: We applied questionnaires aimed at motivation at work in relation to the dependent variables: stress, anxiety, resilience and civic organizational behavior in two different departments of the psychiatric hospital, a ward where patients were admitted positively confirmed COVID 19, versus a ward with non-COVID psychiatric patients.

Results: Psychiatric medical staff are trained to treat predominantly psychomotor agitation, violent behavioral syndromes, suicide attempts, psychotic illnesses. 95% of the employees of the COVID support department stated that they prefer to take care of 10 agitated patients, than one patient with COVID. The stress came in most cases from: insufficient support equipment, insufficient doctor to coordinate nurses, lack of experience with somatic patients, fear of contamination generated by non-compliance with protective measures by psychiatric patients.

Conclusions: Resilience and civic organizational behavior kept staff motivation at an optimal level, but lower than would have been appropriate. Also, motivation at work was lower compared to the non-COVID psychiatric ward.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0151

The Impact of COVID-19 on Forensic Rehabilitation in Austria

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Introduction: In general, forensic psychiatric patients experience major restrictions of freedom. To mitigate the risk for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), even more restrictions were implemented in Austrian mental health institutions in 2020. Besides potential deterioration of psychopathological symptoms, exaggerated freedom-restricting measures may limit the forensic rehabilitation of offenders.

Objectives: Given that rehabilitative efforts and social visits were suspended for more than a year, this study aimed to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychosocial rehabilitation of forensic psychiatric patients.

Methods: This retrospective longitudinal observational study evaluated institutional data before and after the enactment of freedom-restricting measures in an Austrian forensic mental health institution. Data were obtained from 97 offenders treated at the institution *Justizanstalt Göllersdorf* during two time periods (January 2019 – March 2020 and March 2020 – May 2021). Statistical differences between both periods were assessed by means of Wilcoxon signed-rank tests. Study outcomes included the number of visits by relatives and legal guardians as well as rehabilitative activities.

Results: After the outbreak of the pandemic, access to penal institutions was limited for external visitors, which led to a decrease in visits by relatives (1440 vs. 394, $p < .001$) and legal guardians (286 vs. 122, $p = .003$). Further, the total number of one-day temporary releases of patients (64 vs. 3, $p < .001$) and group excursions (103 vs. 10, $p < .001$) decreased in the second study period.

Conclusions: Focusing on social contacts and rehabilitative activities, this study highlights the impact of the current pandemic in forensic psychiatry. While COVID-19-related protective measures may reduce the risk for disease transmission, enforced quarantine and other restrictions of freedom impair the rehabilitation of forensic psychiatric patients. This implies the necessity for guidelines to uphold an appropriate standard of care during future pandemics.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0152

Psychosocial factors and coping strategies associated with alcohol use during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: The investigation of alcohol use and its correlates during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is of utmost importance.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine alcohol use during COVID-19 pandemic, while nationwide lockdowns were in effect in Greece, and its relationship with demographic, clinical, and psychosocial factors.

Methods: The study included 378 individuals (225 women) with a mean age of 30.22 years who completed an online questionnaire during the third wave of the pandemic while restriction measures were in effect (March to April 2021). Participants completed Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S), Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21), Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced Inventory (Brief-COPE) and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS).

Results: According to the results, alcohol use was negatively associated with COVID-19 fear ($p = 0.011$), and positively associated with anxiety ($p = 0.024$), depression ($p < 0.001$) and avoidance-focused coping strategies ($p = 0.003$). Furthermore, perceived social support emerged as a significant protective factor against alcohol use. Men presented higher alcohol use levels compared to women ($p = 0.002$). Additionally, individuals identified as problematic users, based on AUDIT scores, displayed increased levels of anxiety ($p = 0.028$) and depression ($p = 0.017$) and used avoidance-focused coping strategies to a greater extent ($p < 0.001$). Of note, higher alcohol use was observed in participants who lived alone ($p < 0.001$) and in those whose work status had changed during the pandemic ($p = 0.004$).

Conclusions: Our findings highlight the importance of identifying individuals with problematic alcohol use, as well as recognizing crucial psychosocial factors related to alcohol use especially during the pandemic.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0153

Clinical and demographic characteristics of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 referred to a Consultation - Liaison Psychiatry Unit

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Introduction: There is accumulating evidence that SARS-CoV-2 infection, apart from physical complications, can cause a variety of

symptoms related to mental health, either during the acute phase of the infection or following the resolution of acute COVID-19 (i.e., long-COVID).

Objectives: To investigate the demographic and clinical characteristics of a sample of hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Methods: Data were collected from 1 January 2021 to 31 May 2022. In particular, clinical and demographic characteristics of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 at the "Attikon" University General Hospital and who were referred for assessment to the Consultation Liaison Psychiatry unit were collected and analyzed.

Results: During the study period, 107 patients, 66 men (62%) and 41 women (38%) with a mean age of 63 years, with COVID-19 were referred to the Consultation Liaison Psychiatry unit for evaluation. Among them, 58 (54.6%) had a previous psychiatric history, while 49 (45.4%) were assessed for the first time by a mental health professional. The most frequent psychiatric manifestations included anxiety manifestations [38 patients (36%)], delirium [37 patients (35%)] and depressive manifestations [15 patients (14%)].

Conclusions: The description of demographic and clinical characteristics of hospitalized COVID-19 patients with concurrent psychiatric manifestations highlights the importance of early clinical detection of psychiatric comorbidity by physicians with a view to ensuring that patients' needs are supported in an integrated, holistic and patient-centric manner.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0154

infection and vaccination of Covid-19 rates in the psychiatric department of Monastir

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for the global health system. In this context, we have suggested as a research hypothesis that during this global health crisis, people with mental disorders, due to the phenomenon of "under medicalization", would be more affected by Covid infection and would have less chance to be vaccinated.

Objectives: To calculate the infection rate and vaccination rate for COVID-19 in patients with mental disorders.

Methods: This is a descriptive and cross-sectional study that took place over a period of one month (from March 2, 2022 to April 2, 2022) and involved patients attending the outpatient department of psychiatry at the Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital in Monastir.

It was conducted using a predeveloped survey with 15 questions exploring sociodemographic characteristics, history of Covid infection (personal infection, hospitalization, infection in the family, death in the family...) and vaccination for Covid-19 and its modalities.

Results: The medium age of our sample was 44.9 ± 13.7 years. The average duration of illness was 12.5 years and the average number of hospitalizations was 1.65.

Psychotic disorders were the most represented, 57.1%, compared to mood disorders and anxiety disorders.