

P02-271

THE RELIABILITY OF A BRIEF DIAGNOSTIC INTERVIEW, THE TRIPS, FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS ACCORDING TO ICD-10 IN PRIMARY CARE AND NON-PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL SETTINGS

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Introduction: Although there are instruments for the assessment of DSM-IV mental disorders in primary care, there is no brief instrument to assess mental disorders in primary care according to the ICD-10.

Aims: The aim of the study was to assess the reliability of a new diagnostic interview, the TRIPS, designed for the assessment of anxiety-, mood-, and alcohol related disorders according to ICD-10 by non-mental health professionals.

Methods: At first, all Patients completed a screening questionnaire and were subsequently assessed by the staff of somatic departments of a Vienna General Hospital with the TRIPS. Within a week, patients were re-assessed by psychiatrists of the department of psychiatry with the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI).

Results: Finally, 290 patients could be assessed with both instruments. With the CIDI, 106 out of 290 patients (37%) got any diagnosis of a mental disorder, 74 (26%) had a mood disorder, 64 (22%) an anxiety disorder and 10 patients (3%) an alcohol-related disorder. Sensitivity of the TRIPS was 88%, specificity was 76% and diagnostic accuracy was 80% for any disorder, and 88%, 83%, and 84% respectively for any mood disorder, 72%, 88%, and 84% for any anxiety disorder, and 60%, 98%, and 97% for alcohol related disorders.

Conclusions: The results show that the TRIPS is a useful instrument with sufficient reliability to detect anxiety disorders and mood disorders in patients with somatic disorders by health professionals without psychiatric training. Due to the low base rate the test criteria for alcohol-related disorders cannot be interpreted sufficiently.