

A 1-year observational study to evaluate patterns of aggression in patients: the PERSEO study. Patient's Characteristics

The Perseo Study Group

Objectives: This Italian observational study was aimed at evaluating patterns of aggression in patients stratified by socio-demographic and diagnostic variables.

Methods: Patients admitted to Italian Acute Hospital Psychiatric Ward (AHPW) in a 5 months period, were followed until discharge. Assessments were performed at admission, in the first 3 days, and at discharge. Psychometric scales included the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) version 4.0, the Modified Overt Aggression Scale (MOAS), the Brief Symptoms Inventory (BSI), (SWN) and Drug Attitude Inventory (DAI-30).

Results: A total number of 2521 adult patients were enrolled in 50 centers; 2472 (1258 M, 1214 F; mean age 43.7 ± 14.2 yrs) were evaluable according with study protocol. 94% of these patients were Italian. The most frequent instruction level was intermediate (40.3%); 43.6% of patients were unmarried. Regarding working activities, 28.4% were retired, 26.6% unoccupied, and 22.0% occupied, 41.8% of whom were employee. The most of these patients lived with parental family (34.3%), while 29.9 lived with partner and/or sons and 18.4 lived alone.

Regarding alcohol abuse, 15.0 were alcohol-abusers, while 3.7% were dependent; 57.5% were smokers and 3.5% were drug dependant, 8.2% occasional drug users and 3.1% were ex-drug abusers.

The vast majority of patients were voluntarily hospitalized while 14.7% were restraint (TSO); police conducted 15.2% of patients to AHPW;

The majority of patients (62.9%) went to first aid before AHPW admission; 28.4% belong to territorial psychiatric services, 18.6% belong to their family.

Approximately one fourth (24.5%) of patients were hospitalized because of caregiver unavailability.

Twenty-six percent of patients showed suicide ideation or attempt and 44.9% of patients were admitted because of treatment non-compliance.

The main reason for admission was a severe psychotic episode, 70.0% of them with aggressive behavior.

Twenty-two percent had cardiovascular concurrent pathology and 21.1 any metabolic illness.

Conclusion: Admission to AHPW has a huge impact on society and health services. Patients show aggressive behavior and half of them are hospitalised because of non-compliance to treatment.