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SUICIDAL RISK AMONG PATIENTS ASSESSED AT THE MODENA CONSULTATION-LIAISON PSYCHIATRY SERVICE: PREVALENCE DATA FROM A 6-MONTH CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.

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Introduction: Prevention of suicide is one of the main targets of health care at the General Hospital (GH), according to the Emilia-Romagna Region Recommendations for the prevention of suicidal conducts in the Hospital (2012), and the assessment of suicidal risk is one of the most common reasons for referral. The Modena CLP Service (M-CLPS) provides routine and urgent psychiatric consultations to all the wards of the Modena Policlinico GH. The aim of this study is to report data about the prevalence of referrals for evaluating suicidal risk and/or attempts, and to measure suicidal risk among patients at the first assessment by the M-CLPS.

Method: Cross-sectional study. All consecutive patients referred to the M-CLPS in the period May-October 2018 were included. For each patient providing informed consent, socio-demographical and clinical variables were collected. The P4 suicidality screener, a brief instrument consisting in four questions investigating suicidal ideation and planning, previous suicidal attempts and protective factors against suicide, was administered. Statistical analysis was performed with STATA 14.

Results: 546 psychiatric consultations were performed (50.5% male, mean age: 59.9±18 years). Most referrals were made from Internal Medicine (18.5%) and Accident & Emergency (9.7%) wards. In 20 cases (3.6%), the reasons for referral were suspected suicidal risk (1.3%, N=10) or attempted suicide (1.3%, N=10). Overall, P4 was administered to 49 patients: 18.7% of them were identified as having a high suicidal risk, 12.2% with low suicidal risk and 69.1% with minimal or absent suicide risk.

Conclusions: Despite the limited sample size, the present work is an attempt to assess the activity of the M-CLPS service in suicidal prevention, according to the Regional recommendations for the prevention of suicidal conducts in Hospital. Future studies could compare these results with the national data.

References: 1. Regione Emilia Romagna. 2012. Raccomandazioni per la prevenzione delle condotte suicidarie in ospedale.

2. Rigatelli M & Ferrari S. The Modena consultation-liaison psychiatry service, Italy. Br J Psychiatry. 2004 Mar;184:268-9.