

Consultation-liaison psychiatry: more knowledge, better assistance

Pérez EJ¹, Ginés JM¹, Moreno J¹, Palma A¹, Chavarría V¹, León J¹, Alba L¹, Pérez V^{1,2,3}, Bulbena A^{1,2}

1. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria y Addiccions, Parc de Salut Mar de Barcelona

2. Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques – IMIM

3. Centro de Investigación Biomedica en Red de Salud Mental CIBERSAM G21

Aims

Consultation-liaison (CL) psychiatry is a branch of psychiatry that study and treat mental health of patients with other medical or surgical conditions. The assistance between hospitals and health services is heterogeneous. For this reason, the objective of our research is to define the clinical characteristics from our CL service and check out the quality relationship with the applicant service, for improving future assistance.

Methods

We made a descriptive analysis of clinical variables from the patients who received assistance during 2 months by the CL service from the Hospital del Mar, Barcelona. We got the frequencies and we used the Chi square test for the comparison between variables: diagnosis and appearance in the report and treatment in the report.

Results

Table 1. Description of the age, sex and previous psychiatric diagnosis.

| N total=42 | | Man | Woman | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Mean age (sd)* | | 54 (28.1) | 56 (20.9) | 55.1 (23.3) |
| Median age | | 72 | 60 | 61.5 |
| Previous psychiatric diagnosis | Yes | 8 (19%) | 16 (38.1%) | 24 (57.1%) |
| | No | 8 (19%) | 10 (23.8%) | 18 (42.9%) |

*Not normal distribution of the sample

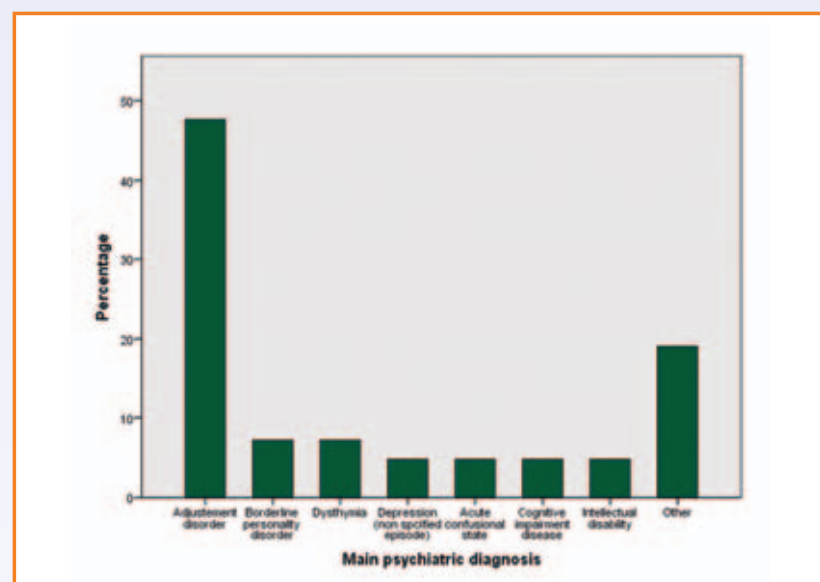
Table 2. Appearance of C-L process information in the report.

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| C-L assistance | 28 (68.3%) | 13 (31.7%) |
| C-L indicated treatment | 20 (48.8%) | 2 (4.9%) |

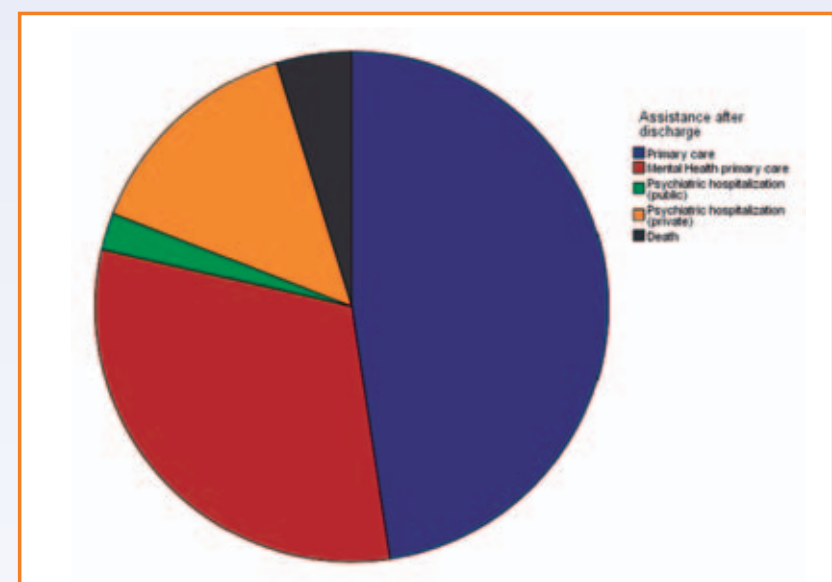
*In one patient information wasn't obtained

**Treatment after discharge wasn't required in 19 patients (46.3%)

Graphic 1. Distribution of the main psychiatric diagnosis.



Graphic 2. Distribution of indicated assistance after hospitalization discharge.



Conclusions

- Adjustment Disorder is supposed to be the most common psychiatric diagnosis in our CL psychiatry service, as we found in the reviewed literature.
- The results reveal that relationships between services can be improved.
- We didn't found statistically significant differences between diagnosis and appearance of C-L process in the discharge report.
- More studies must be done for completing information in this issue.

Bibliography

- Conejo J, Sainz E. Aspectos de interés en la psiquiatría de enlace. 1ª ed. Ergon, 2010.
- Callaghan P, Eales S, Coates T, Bowers L. A review of research on the structure, process and outcome of liaison mental health services. J Psychiatr Ment Health Nurs. 2003 Apr; 10 (2): 155-65.
- Wood R, Wand Ap. The effectiveness of consultation-liaison psychiatry in the general hospital setting: a systematic review. J Psychosom Res. 2014 Mar; 76 (3): 175-92.