

increasing disease severity the probability of an appropriate drug treatment decreased. Newer antidepressants with a favourable side effect profile are rarely considered.

The results arise major concerns as to the quality of psychopharmacological treatment in primary care.

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THE FREQUENCY OF SOMATOFORM DISORDERS IN A POPULATION OF PRIMARY CARE SETTING PATIENTS

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Aims: Somatoform Disorders (SD) are psychiatric disorders encountered mainly in primary care settings and treated mainly by general practitioners. SD are underdiagnosed and overtreated.

Methods: Consenting patients were evaluated using a questionnaire designed after the SD section of CID-I. HAM-D scale was also used to rule out depressive patients.

Population: Every third Patient of a small public primary care service, during the first and the last week of November.

Results: Of the 69 patients, 3 fulfilled the criteria for Somatization Disorder (4.3%), 3 for Pain Disorder (4.3%) and 11 for Undifferentiated Somatoform Disorder (15.9%).

Conclusion: The frequency of SD in the given population is high compared with their prevalence in general populations (0.13% for Somatization Disorder and around 4% for Undifferentiated Somatoform Disorder) and warrants special attention as an important health problem.