

P02-107 - FREQUENT ATTENDERS IN AN ITALIAN ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

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Objectives: To evaluate the features of Frequent-Attenders (FAs) admitted to an Acute Psychiatric Unit of a general hospital in Bologna, Northern Italy.

Methods: Persons admitted between January 2008-June 2009 (N=110) were randomly selected thanks to the Hospital Information System. All participants' admissions in the indexed period were recorded, the case-history of the first admission was reviewed gathering socio-demographic and clinical information. The International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) was used for diagnosis. FAs were defined for 3 or more admissions within 18 months (Botha et al. 2009).

Results: Almost one out of three patients was a FA (N=34; 30.9%). The mean number of admission for each subject being 5.6 ± 3.4 for an average length of stay of 56.2 ± 62.1 days. In comparison to single users, FAs were more frequently men (67.6% vs. 46.1%; $p=0.029$), unemployed (79.4% vs. 29.2%; $p < 0.001$) and living in social-health facilities (29.4% vs. 9.5%; $p < 0.024$). FAs and common users were not different concerning compulsory/voluntary admission. Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders were predominant among FAs (44.1%), followed by Substance Use and Personality Disorders (14.7%), but no differences were detectable between cases and controls in terms of discharge diagnoses. Conversely, the prevalence of concomitant organic diseases was higher in FAs (50% vs. 27.6%; $p=0.020$). Finally, the results of the Logistic Regression Model estimating Odds Ratios and 95% Confidence Intervals suggested that FAs had a lower insight/compliance (2.15; 2.50-29.66; $p=0.001$).

Conclusions: FAs have a higher mental-social disability. A targeted treatment might reduce the frequency of hospitalization.