

P01-130 - ALEXITHYMIA AND SUICIDE RISK AMONG PATIENTS WITH OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

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Objective: The aim of our study was to evaluate the relationships between alexithymia and suicidal ideation in a sample of adult outpatients with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

Methods: A sample of 90 adult outpatients with DSM-IV diagnosis of OCD were tested with tested with the Yale-Brown Obsessive Compulsive Scale, Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20), Scale for Suicide Ideation (SSI) and Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS).

Results: 35 subjects were categorized as alexithymics and showed earlier onset, longer duration of illness and more likelihood to have a chronic course than nonalexithymics; they also scored higher on the MADRS and SSI. Results of a linear regression showed that chronic OCD course together with Difficulty in Identifying Feelings dimension of TAS-20 and higher MADRS scores were significantly associated with higher scores on the SSI.

Conclusions: Suicidal ideation is frequent among adult outpatients with OCD and is strongly related to the presence of alexithymia and depressive symptoms. Implications are discussed.

References

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