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## INTENT, LETHALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MEDICALLY SERIOUS SUICIDE ATTEMPTERS

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**Introduction:** The study of near fatal suicide attempters may provide insight into the minds of persons who die by suicide. Such attempts are characterized by high suicide intent, together with high medical lethality. The ability to fully understand the specific psychological profiles associated with severe of suicide intent can provide insights for suicide prevention.

**Objectives & aims:** The objective of the present study was to investigate the relationship of suicide intent to lethality among medically serious suicide attempters. Our aim was to examine specific psychological variables related to the subjective and objective components within suicide intent.

**Methods:** 102 suicide attempters belonged to one of two groups: 35 subjects who made medically serious suicide attempts were compared with 67 non- medically serious suicide attempters. All were interviewed and completed questionnaires covering mental pain, communication difficulties, and seriousness of the suicide intent.

**Results:** The objective component of the suicide intent scale (SIS) was highly correlated the lethality, as well as to communication difficulties, such as self disclosure while the subjective component of the SIS was related to mental pain variables such as depression and hopelessness. A significant interaction between mental pain and communication difficulties was found to predict severity of the objective suicide intent.

**Conclusions:** The suicidal person whom suffers from depression and hopelessness and cannot signal his pain to others because of communication difficulties can be a risk for a serious suicide attempt - which is more planned, with more precautions against discovery and without communication before or during the attempts.