

P02-84 - THE MANAGEMENT OF DEPRESSION IN OLDER PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC DISEASES  
BY THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN ENGLAND

**A.M. Yohannes**<sup>1</sup>, M. Hann<sup>2</sup>, B. Sibbald<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Health Professions, Manchester Metropolitan University, <sup>2</sup>National Primary Care Research and Development, The University of Manchester, Manchester, Virgin Islands (U.K.)

**Introduction:** Depression is common in older patients with chronic diseases. Untreated depression leads to poor compliance with medical treatment and increases health care utilization.

**Aims:** We examined the management of depression in patients with COPD, severe osteoarthritis and unspecified symptoms by the general practitioners (GPs).

**Methods:** We assessed a national sample of general practitioners (n = 3956) in England, the management of depression for chronic diseases using a postal survey with three case vignettes.

**Results:** 864 (22%) completed responses were received (Men = 433, Female = 431). The mean (SD) age was 45.8 (8.47). The percentage of GPs who reported that they would explore the diagnosis of depression for each vignette were 95.4% for COPD, 88.3 % for severe osteoarthritis and 86.3% for unspecified symptoms. There is significant difference in the percentage of GPs diagnosing depression more COPD patients compared with severe osteoarthritis and unspecified symptoms

( $\chi^2 = 76.6$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). GPs that offer a diagnosis of depression for patients with COPD are more likely to prefer a combination of antidepressant drugs and psychological therapy as their first line of treatment  $F(3.00, 2534) = 2.39$ ,  $p = 0.06$ . GPs endorse the importance of routinely screening for depression in patients who have COPD  $F(3.89, 3349) = 5.03$ ,  $p < 0.0006$  and depression impairs patient's self-management of COPD  $F(3.95, 3404.36) = 5.28$ ,  $p < 0.0003$ .

**Conclusions:** GPs in England report the importance of screening for depression in patients with chronic diseases. Depression interferes on the self-management of COPD.