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A PRE-POST COMPARISON OF A MULTIDIMENSIONAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR ACUTELY SUICIDAL BORDERLINE PATIENTS

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Over the last few years, a new comprehensive program for acutely suicidal borderline patients has been developed in the Geneva area (careful description is provided in a distinct section of this workshop). The present work will report the results of a service research oriented study aimed at evaluating the impact of the implementation of such multidimensional intervention on a system of psychiatric services in a 500.000 inhabitant catchment area. Specifically, a pre-post design has been utilized to compare two distinct patient cohorts meeting criteria for borderline personality disorder who had been referred to medical emergency room with suicidal attempt. Both cohorts had follow-up at 3-month and 1 year to assess treatment failure, repetition, hospitalization and direct costs. The results indicate that the program is feasible and may be associated with improved outcome and substantial costs savings among acutely suicidal borderline patients.