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CLINICAL FEATURES OF AFFECTIVE DISORDERS IN THE ELDERLY

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Introduction: Mood disorders in the elderly are a relevant clinical problem associated with high prevalence and frequent co-morbidity with chronic somatic diseases.

Objective: Study of clinical traits of depression in elder persons with somatic disorders.

Methods: The investigation was entered by 582 persons (women=391 (67,1%), men=191 (32,9%)), mean age of women has constituted $67,5 \pm 5,8$ years, men - $62,1 \pm 3,8$ years.

Criteria of inclusion: Age in women 55 years and higher, in men - 60 years and higher, clinical level of depression according to Beck Inventory more than 22 scores.

Results: Affective disorders were represented by symptom complexes that masked depression and complicated diagnosis. Clinical symptoms in the kind of anhedonia and complaints about anergia dominated (73,6%), whereas depression, melancholy have moved behind and have constituted 26,4%. Psychopathologic disturbances presented against the background of lingering chronically flowing neurological and somatic diseases (cerebral atherosclerosis, brain blood circulation impairment, IHD, HI, respiratory organs' diseases) in 73,6 %. High risk of emergence of depressive disorders was noticed in widows with low level of education, living in rural area and in persons with somatic diseases. In 32 % of probands we have revealed depression that correlated with marital status and feeling of loneliness ($p > 0,005$). In persons with high level of depression and experiencing feeling of loneliness, risk of suicidal behavioral was higher 2,1 as much.

Conclusions: Study of affective disorders in the elderly allows assessing co-morbidity of somatic and mental disorders, developing tactic of psychotherapeutic and psychopharmacological assistance rendering.