

Introduction: Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic by the WHO on 11 March 2020. From the beginning, the pandemic posed a challenge to the different health systems around the world, which were forced to prioritise and distribute their resources as efficiently as possible. During the period between 11 March 2020 and 28 April 2021, the Regional ECT Unit of the Region of Murcia remained closed.

Objectives: - Determine the clinical status of patients on maintenance ECT in the Regional ECT Unit during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Prioritise resumption of treatment in those who were clinically decompensated or at risk
- Understand the consequences of discontinuation of maintenance ECT for these patients.

Methods: A longitudinal descriptive study was conducted during the month of May 2020.

Results: Thirty-seven patients were contacted by telephone. On the first call, a total of 15 patients were unstable or at risk of decompensation.

Prior to the second call, CT was administered preferentially to a total of 8 patients and programmed to 2. On the second call, a total of 11 patients were at risk of decompensation.

Conclusions: The closure of the Regional ECT Unit had negative consequences for patients undergoing maintenance treatment. Electroconvulsive therapy is an essential part of the treatment of psychiatric patients both in acute episodes and in relapse prevention.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Maintenance ECT; Covid-19; Electroconvulsive therapy

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Attitudes to COVID-19 during the lockdown among university students in Russia and Uzbekistan

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Introduction: During the COVID-19 caused lockdown, when students had to study on-line, they became highly vulnerable to stress. How different were the attitudes of university students towards COVID-19 in such situation in different countries?

Objectives: The goal is to determine the differences in attitudes to COVID-19 during the lockdown among university students in Russia and Uzbekistan

Methods: In May 2020, there was an on-line survey of 163 students of both genders in Ulianov Chuvash State University in Russia and of 49 university students from Bukhara, Samarkand and Andijan in Uzbekistan. The instrument used was 'Attitude towards COVID-19 Questionnaire' (Nikolaev, 2020).

Results: The comparison revealed that Uzbek students are more interested in the latest COVID-19 news than Russian ones ($p=.0004$), they also consider this pandemic as severe and

dangerous for people ($p=.0006$), and think that governmental measures to fight coronavirus are adequate ($p=.0008$). Russian students in their turn, as compared with their Uzbek peers, feel highly concerned about the risk of their own infection ($p=.00001$), as well as the threat to their own life ($p=.00546$) and the life of their relatives and closest ones ($p=.0005$) as a result of coronavirus spread. In addition, Uzbek students regard themselves healthier than Russian ones ($p=.0329$). Students' self-estimation of happiness does not differ ($p=.0776$).

Conclusions: Differences in attitudes to COVID-19 among students are associated with more apparent socially oriented behavior of students from Uzbekistan, and more personality-oriented behavior of Russian students.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Attitudes to COVID-19; Uzbekistan; university students; Russia

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The dark side of social ties: coronavirus 2019-induced fear and intergroup conflicts

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Introduction: The relationship between fear and social ties has been frequently discussed in the context of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, but investigation of the nature of these experiences is still insufficient. Research suggests that people who respect social ties often experience better mental health outcomes. However, when socially isolated, excluded, or subjected to rumors, they may become more vulnerable to criticism, shame, and fear. Another potential problem of the COVID-19 pandemic is intergroup prejudice and distrust.

Objectives: To examine the development and mitigation of social ties, fears, and biases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: We applied discourse analysis to relevant literature and their associated references that incorporated textual, social, and cognitive dimensions. The main databases used were PubMed and Web of Science.

Results: Although the importance of social ties was loudly vocalized as lessening loneliness, people also globally described stigma-related fear or intergroup conflicts. The sense of social ties appeared disproportionately amplified in the form of an in-group identity, group pressures, and empathic distress. Some people overstated worries about their COVID-19-positive status being revealed to others and causing distress for them. Furthermore, discrimination and vigilantism were manifested with fear-related stereotyping and hostility.

Conclusions: Our findings support the view that social ties can indeed function as both risk and protective factors. Context-adjusted perspectives and reciprocal dialogs seem crucial to alleviate these negative impacts. The subsequent mitigation of misunderstandings,