
PERCEPTION OF LIAISON PSYCHIATRY IN SOMATIC MEDECINE

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INTRODUCTION

Liaison psychiatry specializes in the interface between physical and psychological health. This discipline to which a large literature was devoted, has developed in recent decades. In our country, because of economic and social factors, the implantation of this 'sub-specialty' is still difficult. Its location in general hospitals must go first by its acceptance by the health professionals.

OBJECTIVES

Assess the perception of the management of somato-psychiatric comorbidities in somatic medicine and the practice of liaison psychiatry.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is a transversal and descriptive study of 68 non-psychiatric physicians practicing in public institutions. They all received self-assessment questionnaires with 15 questions via internet.

RESULTS

The surveyed physicians were mostly medical residents (43%). The sex ratio (M / F) was 0.2. Among participants, 71% had sometimes suspected or diagnosed psychiatric illness among their patients. Depression was the most frequent diagnostic (27% of cases).

The majority of participants (60%) rarely search psychiatric complications of severe somatic diseases. Faced with psychiatric symptoms, 82% of practitioners consistently directed the patient to psychiatric consultation. Finally, 87% of physicians considered the existence of a psychiatric unit in the hospital as beneficial and 58% of them judged the presence of a psychiatrist in the team as crucial.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study emphasize the importance of collaboration between psychiatry and other medical specialties and the necessity to promote the liaison psychiatry in our country.