

EFFECT OF CASE MANAGEMENT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION IN ELDERERS

個案管理對老人自殺防治的影響

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Background: The aim of this study is to assess whether case management is an effective intervention for decreasing suicidal ideation and depression in elders.

Objective: A total of 4682 elders (age≥65) were recruited from hospitalized patients of a tertiary medical center in Central Taiwan since August 2012, 304 of which were enlisted to case management for suicide prevention. They were stratified according to their risk scores, and received clinical evaluation and follow-up for a period of 2 to 6 months, 257 individuals of which completed the follow-up. Two-hundred fifty seven individuals completed the study. Brief Symptom Rating Scale (BSRS-5) scores at the beginning and end of the program were compared using the paired t-test.

Results: The average age of the population was 77.99 ± 8.37 , with more woman than man (59.2% vs 40.8%). Mean BSRS-5 score was 6.01 ± 4.46 , and mean suicidal ideation score was 0.40 ± 0.83 . Case management resulted in statistically significant improvements in scores of each of the 5 BRSR-5 questions and the total BSRS-5 scores, suicidal ideation, Geriatric Depression Scales (GDS-4, GDS-15), Demoralization Scale-Mandarin Version (DS-MV), Family APGAR score, and comorbidities.

Conclusion: The results of our study highlight the importance of case management in suicide prevention amongst elders with suicidal risk.