

RISK FACTORS OF SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG HOSPITALIZED ELDERLY IN CENTRAL TAIWAN

老人自殺相關因子分析—以中部醫學中心為例

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Background: The aim of this study is to identify and investigate risk factors of suicidal ideation amongst a population of elders from a tertiary medical center in Central Taiwan.

Objective: A total of 4,682 elders (age≥65) were recruited from hospitalized patients of a tertiary medical center in Central Taiwan since August 2012. Suicidal ideation was assessed with the Brief Symptom Rating Scale (BSRS-5), and information on basic demographic and diseases were extracted via chart review. We used the *Chi-square* test and Fisher's exact test to compare the various characteristics with to the presence of suicidal ideation, and multivariate logistic regression to estimate the odds ratio (OR) for each significant factor.

Results: The population had a mean age of 75.74 ± 7.18, BSRS-5 score of 0.43 ± 1.35, suicidal ideation score of 0.02 ± 0.21. Of people with suicidal ideation, 1.1% had suicidal thoughts within 1 week. Higher suicidal ideation score was associated with living alone (OR 5.10; 95% CI=2.36-11.02; *p*<0.001), diagnosis of psychiatric disease (OR 10.57; 95% CI=3.62-30.83; *p*<0.001), need of assistive device for transfer (OR 2.57; 95% CI=1.29-5.13; *p*=0.007), need of personal assistance for transfer (OR 3.29; 95% CI=1.55-6.98; *p*=0.002), falling injury within 6 months (OR 2.81; 95% CI=1.49-5.31; *p*=0.002), depressed mood

(OR 39.9; 95% CI=12.31-129.31; *p*<0.001), anxious mood (OR 8.10; 95% CI=1.87-35.15; *p*=0.005) and poor sleep status (OR 2.30; 95% CI=1.04-5.10; *p*=0.040).

Conclusion: Medical personnel should assess for suicidal risks in hospitalized elders, paying special attention to those with the risk factors identified in this study. Early intervention must be given to high risk patients.