

Article: 0658

Topic: EPW20 - e-Poster Walk Session 20: Emergency Psychiatry

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### Sociodemographic and Clinical Profile of Frequent Visitors to Psychiatric Emergency

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**Introduction:** The frequent use of psychiatric emergency poses problems due to the loss of their adaptative capacity and diagnosis, orientation and therapeutic difficulties for clinicians.

**Aims:** To estimate the prevalence of frequent visitors to psychiatric emergency and to describe their sociodemographic and clinical characteristics.

**Methods:** It is a cross-sectional study of twelve months including patients who consulted at least twice to medical emergency department in the university hospital of Mahdia. Data were collected using a predefined questionnaire.

**Results:** The prevalence of recurrence was 30,2%. The main characteristics were: a mean age of 35,5 years, a male gender (64,5%), being unemployment (72,3%), a single status (71%), a request from the family (55,5%) and the presence of psychiatric personal history (91,6%). Previous hospitalizations were noticed in 69% of cases. 44,5% of the patients had problems with the primary support group and the social environment. In 78,6% of cases, patients had visited emergency twice to four times. The most encountered reason for consultation was heteroagressivity (27%) and the most frequent syndromic diagnosis was psychomotor excitation (25.2%). Hospitalization concerned 47.1% of patients. Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder were the most diagnosed disorders in 54,2% and 25% of cases.

**Conclusion:** Absence of intermediate structures and lack of coordination between the various stakeholders involved in the management of patients are the two main encountered problems.