

Poster presentation

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Role of substance abuse in requirement of physical restraint of psychiatric patients in emergency setting

Domagoj Vidovic*, Petrana Brecic, Aleksander Haid and Vlado Jukic

Address: Psychiatric Hospital Vrapce, Bolnicka 32, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

* Corresponding author

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Background

The practice of physical restraint in psychiatric emergency practice is rather frequent. Patients with substance abuse more often present aggressive behavior requiring physical restraint in such settings. The legal frame for such practice in our country is defined in the Law for the protection of persons with mental disturbances. Patients admitted to a psychiatric emergency ward were analyzed prospectively according to their need of physical restraint.

Methods

We present results of a six month prospective study (September 2006 – March 2007) in which the role of substance abuse will be considered in relation to physical restraint during the stay in an emergency ward. Specific circumstances at admission, demographic data such as age, sex, and years of education will be obtained. Clinical data like diagnosis and specific substance abuse will also be analyzed.