

Accuracy of Psychiatric Diagnoses in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry

Abdulqader Maqbul Aljarad SSC-Psych
Fahad Dakhil Al Osaimi SSC-Psych
Yaser Rashid Al Huthail MD

*Department of Psychiatry, King Khalid University Hospital
King Saud University Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

Abstract

Objective

It is well known that the comorbidity between medical diseases and psychiatric disorders is high and affect medical care; the aim of this study is to asses to what extent physicians other than psychiatrist can accurately diagnose psychiatric disorders and give attention to psychological factors that may negatively affect medical disease course and prognosis.

Methods

This is a prospective study where 157 referrals from different medical and surgical specialties were recruited and accuracy of psychiatric diagnoses were measured by comparing the initial impression or reason of referral given by referring physician to the final diagnosis confirmed by consulted psychiatrist.

Results

In 74 patients (47.14%) the initial impressions made by the referring physician were in accordance with the final diagnoses made by consultation liaison teams. However, in 83 patients (52.86%), the initial impression by the referring physician was inaccurate as confirmed by the consultation liaison team.

Conclusions

There is a low accuracy in diagnosing psychiatric illness in medically ill inpatients. The most common psychiatric disorders in medically ill inpatients are depressive disorders, with an accurate diagnosis in almost half of the patients .Diagnoses of cognitive disorders or substance abuse by physicians other than psychiatrists are 100% accurate, but misdiagnosis of cognitive disorders is common and they are easily mistaking them for other psychiatric diagnoses such as depression.

Keywords: Consultation, Psychiatric illnesses, Medical diseases

Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences 2008; 3(2): 123 - 128

Correspondence to:

Dr. Abdulqader Maqbul Aljarad
Senior Registrar, Department of psychiatry
King Khalid University Hospital King Saud University
✉ 230083 Riyadh 11321, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
☎ +966 1 4671717
☎ +966 1 4672571
✉ amjarad@hotmail.com