

DEPRESSION AFTER STROKE AND ITS PREVALENCE

V. Qemalli Asabelli¹, M. Kapisyzi², F. Elezi², A. Como², S. Koci

¹Regional Health Authority; ²UHC Mother Teresa, Service of Psychiatry; ³Hospital of Gjirokastra & ⁴University Clinic of Neurology, Tirana, Albania

Aim: To determine the prevalence of depression after stroke; To determine differences in prevalence of depression between the sexes and between patients with first ever and recurrent strokes.

Methodology: 147 (67F&80M) patients admitted at University Clinic of Neurology in UHC "Mother Teresa", Tirana, Albania; diagnosed for ischemic stroke were assessed initially, by examination and interview, and at 4 and 12 month follow-ups.

Results: The prevalence of depressive illness 4 months after stroke in 147 patients was 23% (18-28%), 15% (11-19%), major depression and 8% (5-11%) minor depression.

There were no significant differences between the sexes or between patients with first ever and recurrent strokes. With a non-hierarchic approach to diagnosis of those with depression; 26% of men and 39% of women had an associated anxiety disorder. 9% of male and 13% of female patients interviewed had evidence of depression at the time of stroke.

12 months after stroke 56% of the men were still depressed (40%major and 16% minor), as were 30% of the women (12%major and 18% minor).

Conclusion: The prevalence of depression after stroke was comparable with that reported from other studies.

No differences between sexes was revealed.