

Poster presentation

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Follow-up care and general pressure to treatment after discharge from psychiatric ward

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Background

The Czech Republic took part in the international EUNOMIA project, which pursued the application of coercive measures in psychiatric treatment. 5 – 35% of the patients with acute mental disorder are involuntarily admitted to psychiatric facilities in the Czech Republic. Previous reports showed that the majority of the patients in the Czech Republic feels to be admitted under duress of their family members, physicians and also the police. The subjective perception of the coercion is undoubtedly connected with an insufficient insight resulting from their illness. The aim of this presentation was to find out, in the group of involuntarily admitted patients, in which manner follow-up care proceeds after their release from the hospital, and to monitor, if any general pressure to adhere to the treatment exists.

Methods

Discharged involuntarily admitted patients were asked 3 months after admission whether they feel some pressure to adhere to treatment. We also monitored follow-up care using a special questionnaire form designed by the EUNOMIA group.

Results

The sample consisted of 202 involuntarily admitted patients. More than 90 per cent of them attended at least once a month a check-up at their out-patient psychiatrist. Only a small part of these patients utilized community services like day stationary services. The majority of the patients felt some danger that in case of non-observance

of the treatment they would be restricted in some way (most often hospitalized again). Possible pressure is felt by them from the side of their family and of their out-patient psychiatrist.

Conclusion

We monitored the follow-up care in the group of involuntarily admitted patients in the Czech Republic. Patients are pushed to adhere to treatment by their relatives, but out-patient psychiatrists also play an important role.