



Profiles of the Patient Who Had Compulsory Hospitalization in a District Psychiatric Hospital



Nalan Gördeles Beşer^{a,*}, Leyla Baysan Arabacı^b, Satı Bozkurt^c, Gülçin Uzunoğlu^d, Gülsenay Taş^e

^a Ömer Halis Demir Üniversitesi Zübeyde Hanım Sağlık Yüksekokulu, Psychiatric Nursing Department, Niğde, Turkey

^b İzmir Kâtip Çelebi Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Fakültesi Hemşirelik Bölümü, Psychiatric Nursing Department, Çiğli, İZMİR, Turkey

^c Ege Üniversitesi Hemşirelik Fakültesi, Psychiatric Nursing Department, Bornova, İZMİR, Turkey

^d Manisa Ruh Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Hastanesi Çocuk ve Ergen Psikiyatrisi, MANİSA, Turkey

^e İzmir Kâtip Çelebi Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Fakültesi Hemşirelik Bölümü, Psychiatric Nursing Department, Çiğli, İZMİR, Turkey

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: It aims to examine the profiles of patients who were treated with compulsory hospitalization between 2011 and 2015 in a district psychiatric hospital.

METHOD: In this retrospective and cohort study, hospital records gathered from 202 adult patients who were treated with compulsory hospitalization in units with a bed between 2011 and 2015 in a district psychiatric hospital were examined. In this study, profiles and socio-demographic features of the patients with compulsory hospitalization were evaluated by 23 closed-ended and open-ended questions prepared by researchers. In data analysis, Monte Carlo Chi-square test and number-percentage distribution were used.

FINDINGS: 57.4% of examined cases was female and mean average was 38.88 ± 13.06 . Of examined cases, 18.8% was people graduated from high school or university and it was detected that 81.7% didn't have any regular job during the compulsory hospitalization. Of which 55.9% has not gotten married and 12.4% was divorced, 48.0% of the population has been living with their parents, sibling or/and their relatives and 17.8% has been living alone or in the nursing home. Of which 59.9% of the cases which were diagnosed with psychosis, 38.1% with psychotic relapse, 22.8% with medication regulation, 22.8% with excitation (expansiveness) and 15.8% having the risk of self-mutilation and damage his/her environment were admitted to compulsory hospitalization. Of these cases, the relative or custodian of 74.2%, employee of nursing home of 9.4%, law-enforcement officers of 5.4% and medical staff of 4.0% gave hospitalization approval. While not having any history for alcohol-substance abuse, it was established that 10.9% of the population had a problematic juridical records. Of the cases, hospitalization of 75.7% came to end with recovery/discharge and 20.3% was over with the demand of his/her relative/custodian, 1.5% of the cases escaped from the hospital.

CONCLUSION: Patients whose majority was female, person who has never gotten married or was divorced and has low educational level don't have any regular job and live with their relatives. In addition, their relatives made the majority of these patients admit to hospital because of the history of psychotic diagnose and psychotic relapses. According to these results, it is recommended that patients will receive an effective treatment in order to protect the right to decide their own treatment.

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PROFILE OF COMPULSORY ADMISSION PATIENTS AT A REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

The concept of compulsory admission means admitting an individual to hospital and keeping them there for treatment against their will (Oğuz 1993). This action of "compulsory admission" is generally carried out with patients with a psychiatric disorder, and

is performed in every part of the world. This is because patients with a psychiatric disorder have generally lost the ability to control their own actions and to make decisions on their own treatment, and for this reason it is necessary to have them treated in this way (Oğuz 1993).

Comparing the different countries of the world, it is seen that the characteristics of compulsory admission patients are similar (Oğuz 1993, Aydın Er and Şehiraltı 2010). In a study by Salize and Dressing (2004), it was reported that in European countries, 8% of psychiatric patient admissions were against the will of the patient: 12.5% in France, 4.6% in Denmark, and 21.6% in Finland (Salize and Dressing 2004); Gültekin et al. (2013) reported that of 504 patients admitted to a

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: nananbeser@hotmail.com (N.G. Beşer), leyla.baysan.arabaci@ikc.edu.tr (L.B. Arabacı).

psychiatric clinic in Turkey over a period of six months, 438 (86.9%) were voluntary, while 66 (13.1%) were involuntary (Gültekin et al. 2013). In studies on the socio-demographic characteristics of compulsorily admitted patients, it is reported that most had a diagnosis of schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, most were male, they had a low educational level, and they were either separated from their partners or had never married (Salize and Dressing 2004, Gültekin et al. 2013, Zeppegno et al. 2005, Chang et al. 2013, Hatling et al. 2002, Post et al. 2009, Yılmaz et al. 2013).

According to reports in the literature on the reasons given for the compulsory admission of psychiatric patients and the authorities which made the decisions on admission, in America, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Israel and Holland the likelihood of patients causing harm to themselves or others is taken into account in laws on mental health concerning the compulsory admission to hospital of patients with psychiatric disorders, while in Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Japan, India, Italy and Spain the criterion for non-voluntary admission is not the danger posed by the patient, but the need for treatment (Peele and Chodoff, 1999, Stefano and Ducci, 2008). In many countries it is competent medical experts, generally psychiatrists, who make the decision on the compulsory treatment of a patient, but in others it is a physician, a public prosecutor or a mayor who has this authority (Peele and Chodoff, 1999, Stefano and Ducci, 2008). In Turkey, 432nd number of the dated 22.11.2001 and 4721 number The Turkish Civil Code “any adult who for any one of the reasons of mental illness, weakness of mind, addiction to alcohol or a narcotic drug, a dangerous infectious disease or misbehavior constitutes a danger to society, in conditions where personal safety can be secured in no other way, may be placed or detained in an appropriate institution for treatment, education or correction.” (TCC 2001) Oğuz and Demir (1993) state that the decision for compulsory admission is generally taken by a physician (Oğuz and Demir 1993). The Mental Health Act drawn up by the Turkish Psychiatric Association authorizes a psychiatrist or a team consisting of psychiatrists to make to decision on compulsory admission, and the criterion for admission is the risk of patients harming themselves or others (Mental Health Act, 2007). Relevant to the topic, the *Rules of Professional Ethics of Psychiatry* authorizes the relatives of patients at high risk of harming themselves or their surroundings to recommend admission to hospital, and in cases where the patient or the relatives oppose admission, the decision is left to the physician (Rules of Professional Ethics of Psychiatry, 2002). Compulsory admission and treatment of patients with psychiatric disorders, even when it is for their own benefit, are frequent subjects of discussion, making it necessary to develop definitive standards. Also, it must not be ignored that a patient's rights must not be violated in the course of compulsory admission. In this regard, account must be taken of patients' rights to decide on their own treatment and to give approval to their own admission to hospital, and necessary steps must be taken even when patients are being admitted compulsorily.

Consequently, compulsory admission is carried out in many countries within the framework of definite laws and regulations, but in this country there is no standardization in practice even though civil law, the professional ethics codes of psychiatrists and the Mental Health Act, which is still at the planning stage, are taken as a basis. Since it is necessary that all practices be carried out according to definite standards and that patients' rights not be violated, and so determining the profiles of patients with psychiatric disorders who are receiving treatment while compulsorily admitted will allow for the evaluation of practices in this area and their results, and will contribute to the development of standards in the same area. The aim of this study, therefore, was to examine the profiles of patients compulsorily admitted to a regional psychiatric hospital between 2011 and 2015. The number of studies performed in the world and in Turkey on compulsory admissions is very limited, and the data obtained in this study will contribute to filling the gaps in this field and will illuminate future research.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

DESIGN

This study was conducted in order to examine the profiles of patients undergoing treatment with compulsory admission between 2001 and 2015 at a regional psychiatric hospital as a retrospective cohort type study. The research was conducted at one of the regional hospital. The hospital has five wards for adult males, two for adult females, wards for male and female children and adolescents, an alcohol and substance addiction treatment center, a forensic ward, a rehabilitation unit and an Electroconvulsive Therapy Unit. It has a total bed capacity of 785, and serves 12 population centers. The hospital employs 45 physicians, 190 nurses, 15 psychologists and three social services experts, and provides services to an average of 135 thousand outpatients and 15 thousand inpatients annually. In this study, information in the files of patients who were compulsorily hospitalized and who were undergoing treatment in four wards of the hospital (two male and two female) was obtained and examined retrospectively.

PARTICIPANTS

An investigation was made of the case files of 620 individuals who were treated with compulsory admission in the period of five years between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 at four services (two for males and two for females) of the hospital included in the research, where admission is generally compulsory. However, the files of only 202 cases were taken for evaluation because the others contained insufficient information for the form prepared by the researchers.

INSTRUMENTS

A 23-question form prepared by the researchers was used to collect the data in examining the files and determine the sociodemographic characteristics such as age and gender and the profiles of the individuals who were compulsorily admitted.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The program SPSS 22.0 was used in the statistical evaluation of the findings obtained. Means and standard deviations were used in the presentation of data. Some variables were analyzed using the Monte Carlo chi-square test. Results were evaluated with a 99% confidence interval and a significance level of $p < 0.001$.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Written permission to conduct the research was obtained from the Non-Invasive Ethics Committee of İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, the General Secretariat of the Public Hospitals Association in the regional psychiatric hospital, and the hospital management.

FINDINGS

It was found that 57.4% of the individuals in the cases examined were female and 42.6% were male. Their mean age was 38.88 ± 13.06 years; 55.9% had never married and 12.4% had separated from their partners. Also, 5.0% were illiterate and 65.3% were educated to primary level, with only 18.8% as high school or university graduates. Similarly, at the time when they were compulsorily admitted, 18.3% had a regular job, 6.4% were retired and 81.7% did not have a regular job. An examination of the records did not give any information on the income levels of the subjects. In terms of social security, 28.2% had a Green Card, while 3.0% had no social security and were admitted on a paying basis (Table 1).

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