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Meta-analysis of risk factors of suicidal phenomena in adolescents

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Suicidal phenomena (suicide attempts, deliberate self-harm and suicidal plans, threats and thoughts) are common in adolescents. Identification of factors associated with these phenomena could play an important role in the development of school or community-based prevention and intervention programs. Self-harm and suicide are major public health problems in adolescents, with rates of self-harm being high in the teenage years and suicide being the 3rd (for females) and 4th (for males) most common cause of death in young people worldwide. This study is to provide a summary of current knowledge about suicidal phenomena risk factors in adolescent, a meta-analysis of published prospective studies longitudinally predicting suicidal phenomena in adolescents. This included 13 published reports. Results from a random-effects model demonstrated significant, albeit weak, overall prediction of suicidal phenomena in adolescent 2.45 (95% CI: 1.60 to 3.4). Among specific suicidal phenomena risk factors, alcohol abuse, family suicidal behavior, and friends' suicidal behavior yielded the strongest effects (ORs>3.0); all remaining risk factor categories produced ORs near or below 2.0. Additionally, results highlighted several limitations of the existing literature, including idiosyncratic suicidal phenomena measurement. These findings indicate that few strong suicidal phenomena risk factors have been identified, and suggest a need for standardized suicidal phenomena measurement and to create more longitudinal prospective studies of risk factors of suicidal phenomena in adolescent.

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Knowledge about childhood autism among pediatricians from tertiary care

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Background: Training in autistic spectrum disorders is crucial in order to achieve an early diagnosis. However, the number of papers describing this knowledge is limited. This study describes this level of knowledge among paediatricians from tertiary care hospitals in different counties in Spain and detects areas that would need improvement.

Method: A total of one hundred and fifty-seven (157) consented paediatricians working in tertiary healthcare hospitals located in three different counties in Spain completed an online questionnaire divided in three sections (socio-demographic, knowledge about childhood autism and opinion). Data were analysed with SPSS version 15.

Results: The total mean score of participated paediatricians on the questionnaire was 20.34±2.43 SD out of a total score of 23 possible. A 65% of paediatricians scored more or equal to the mean score. Knowledge gap was found to be higher within symptoms of repetitive pattern of behaviour, concept of autism and co-morbidity, with no statistical significance. There were no differences among paediatrician's scores within different socio-demographic groups. A 64% of paediatricians subscribed to the opinion that their own knowledge about autism is limited and there is an important lack of knowledge about facilities in every county.

Conclusion: There is an appropriate level of knowledge about autism among paediatricians of tertiary healthcare although there is a lack of awareness about the management of these patients, with a poor coordination among different specialists who are involved in their treatment. Efforts should focus on achieve a better association between these specialists and update the knowledge gaps identified.

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