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## Depression and associated factors among hospitalized elderly: A cross sectional study in a Saudi teaching hospital

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**Introduction & Purpose:** Depression is a serious and often under-diagnosed psychiatric disorder. The purpose of this study was to examine the prevalence of depression and associated factors among hospitalized elderly.

**Methods:** We included a consecutive series of patients (n=208) aged 60 years and older who were admitted to the medical and surgical wards of King Abdulaziz University Hospital (KAUH). Participants were interviewed within 48 hours of admission using an interviewer administered questionnaire to provide basic demographic and clinical information. Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) was used to screen for depression. DSM-V criteria were used to confirm the diagnosis. According to PHQ-9, there were 34(17%) and 21(10.5%) of the 200 patients diagnosed with major depressive disorder and other depressive disorder respectively.

**Results:** There was no statistical significant difference found between major depressive disorder, other depressive disorder and no depression groups in terms of socio-demographic and clinical measures except for the number of co-morbidity which was significantly higher in the major depressive disorder group than the no depression group (post hoc p=0.023). According to DSM-V criteria, there were 24(12%) of the 200 patients diagnosed with major depression which is less than the number diagnosed by PHQ-9. There was no statistical difference in patients' characteristics between DSM-V depression and no depression group.

**Conclusion:** our study demonstrated a high prevalence rate of depression among hospitalized elderly. Consequently, physicians must maintain a high index of suspicion for such illness in this frail population.

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## A study on sentencing behaviour of practicing judges in the lower courts in India

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It is increasingly being seen that judges tend to differ remarkably while delivering the sentence in similar offences. There are not enough empirical evidences to suggest as to what makes a judge to award differing offences in smaller offence. It is observed that the judges may have a very liberal to a very strict stand in certain categories of offences. Lately, the judges in India have shown a greater tendency to award strict punishment on a crime against women. From the view point of forensic psychology, it is highly interesting to note whether the factors relevant to law are detrimental in shaping such behaviour of judges or there are personality cum environment based factors which may be at play for this kind of outcome. The main idea to study this issue is based on the hypothesis that the personality and ideological leaning of a judge become an important factor in the kind of sentence awarded by him. The present paper will take a sample of around 50 decided cases with regard to women and children and other violent offences for the purpose of comparison to study, whether the cases were purely decided on the merit of evidence of law or the judges vary significantly on account of their personal characteristic, background, place of origin, belief system and other psychological correlates.

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