Psychological Assessment of Patients with Myocardial Infarction

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Abstract:

Myocardial infarction (MI) is a world wide life threatening condition. Psycho- social factors contribute significantly to the pathogenesis and expression of myocardial infarction, which includes: Depression, anxiety, personality factors, social isolation and chronic life stress. The aim of the study: Psychological assessment of patients with myocardial infarction. Patients and methods: The study included 119 patients (78 (65.6%) males and 41(34.4%) females). The study was recruited at cardiac outpatient clinic of Assiut University Hospital during one year duration from 1st December 2009 until 30th November 2010. Methods: Each patient was assessed through Symptoms Check list-90-Revised (SCL- 90- R), Beck depression inventory (BDI) and Norbeck social supportive scale. Results: The highest percentage of subjects were males (65.6%), above 50 years old, resided in urban areas, illiterate, with low socio economic state, not working, had acute onset of ischemia, ( had hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity, not practice exercise and with family history of MI) as risk factors, also 25.2% had complication of MI, 59.7% with bad social supportive network, according to SCL- 90-revised symptoms, revealed that high percentage of patients had psychiatric symptoms, 88.2% had symptoms of depression, 90.8% anxiety, 67.2% stress, 65.5% Somatization, 37.8% sensitivity, 37.8% hostility, 42.9% paranoia, 44.5% phobia, 54.6% obsession, 36.1% psychosis. Conclusion and Recommendation: Psychiatric symptoms are very frequent findings in patients with myocardial infarction and have to be detected and managed accordingly.

Keywords:

Psychological assessment, Myocardial Infarction, Social Support

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