

Psychiatric illness among burn patients: experience at a single ABA verified Burn Center

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INTRODUCTION

Burn injury is uniquely characterized by the initial traumatic event in addition to the psychiatric component associated with physical change and recovery. Recent work has highlighted the importance of pre-existing psychiatric illness on both recovery and final outcomes in burn patients (Tarrier et al 2005, Hudson et al 2017, Wisely et al 2009).

OBJECTIVE

We examined the prevalence and association of psychiatric illness in our ABA verified burn unit. Knowledge of this information is critical in allocation of limited resources aimed toward addressing both the physical and mental aspect of burn injury.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The burn registry at a single verified burn center was examined from July 2017-July 2018. All consecutive burn patients with psychiatric illness who were admitted were included.

Psychiatric illness was broken down into: depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and delirium. Need for psychiatric consultation, % TBSA burn, length of hospital stay, and operative intervention was also examined.

RESULTS

	Overall	Male	Female
Age	42 yrs	40.5 yrs	45.8 yrs
Avg %TBSA Burn	13.7 %	14.9 %	10.8 %
Psychiatric Condition	19.5% (81/416)	75% (46/61)	25% (15/61)
Operative Intervention	54% (44/81)	73% (32/81)	27% (12/81)
Length of Stay	27.9 dys	29.5 dys	24.1 dys

Table 1. Demographics of burn patients with psychiatric conditions

RESULTS (cont)

	Overall	Male	Female
Anxiety	46% (37/81)	49% (28/57)	38% (9/24)
Depression	33% (27/81)	28% (16/57)	46% (11/24)
Bipolar Disorder	23% (19/81)	25% (14/57)	21% (5/24)
Schizophrenia	21% (17/81)	25% (14/57)	13% (3/24)
Delerium	14% (11/81)	19% (11/57)	0%
Multiple (> 1 Psych diagnosis)	75% (61/81)	81% (46/57)	63% (15/24)

Table 2. Most common psychiatric disorders in burn patients admitted to the burn unit.

CONCLUSION

- 19.5% of admitted burn patients had a psychiatric condition**
 - ** 75% of pts required further psychiatric evaluation**
- Anxiety was the most common condition overall**
 - ** followed by depression**
 - ** and bipolar disorder**
- In female burn patients, however**
 - ** depression was the most common condition**
 - ** while anxiety was the most common condition in males**
- Delirium was seen in 14% of admitted pts**
 - **and may identify a potential area of improvement.**
- Multiple psychiatric consultation**
 - ** 75% of pts had >1 psychiatric diagnosis**
- More than half (54%) of pts required operative intervention**
 - ** indicating that severity of injury was high**