

Aalborg Universitet

Suicidal patients' evaluation of supplementary psychoeducational program

Winsløv, Jan-Henrik; Cl	nristiansen, Rikke;	Dukai, Louise
-------------------------	---------------------	---------------

Publication date: 2017

Document Version Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

Winsløv, J.-H., Christiansen, R., & Dukai, L. (2017). Suicidal patients' evaluation of supplementary psychoeducational program. Poster presented at World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Kuching, Malaysia.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
 You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



Suicidal patients' evaluation of supplementary psychoeducational program

Winsløv, J-H; Christiansen, R; Dukai, L

Introduction

The positive effect of psychoeducation is well-documented across different psychiatric disorders. Psychoeducation might improve the understanding of psychiatric illness and distress, strengthen empowerment, treatment adherence as well as potentially reduce relapses and drop-outs. Only few studies have examined the effect of psychoeducation directed towards patients at risk of suicide. This is surprising given that psychoeducation might improve problem-solving, empowerment, and reduce self-stigmatizing and suicidality.

AIMS

The aim of this study was to examine patient's evaluation of a psychoeducational program that supplements the individual treatment in order to enhance the psychoeducation program.

METHOD

The Unit for Suicide Prevention, Psychiatry - Aalborg University Hospital received patients referred after suicide attempt or severe suicidal ideation. During June, 2016 to November, 2016, psychoeducation was offered to 6 groups of patients at the clinic.

The psychoeducational program considsted of 4 sessions divided into two meetings of 90-120 minutes. The program covered topics relevant for suicidal patients in outpatient treatment. Topics at the first meeting were: suicidality (prevalence, riskfactors, suicidal thoughts and behovior), crisis (trauma and stress) and typical reaction of the relatives. At the second meeting reasons for living and dying were discussed, as well as the implications of being in psychotherapeutic treatment.

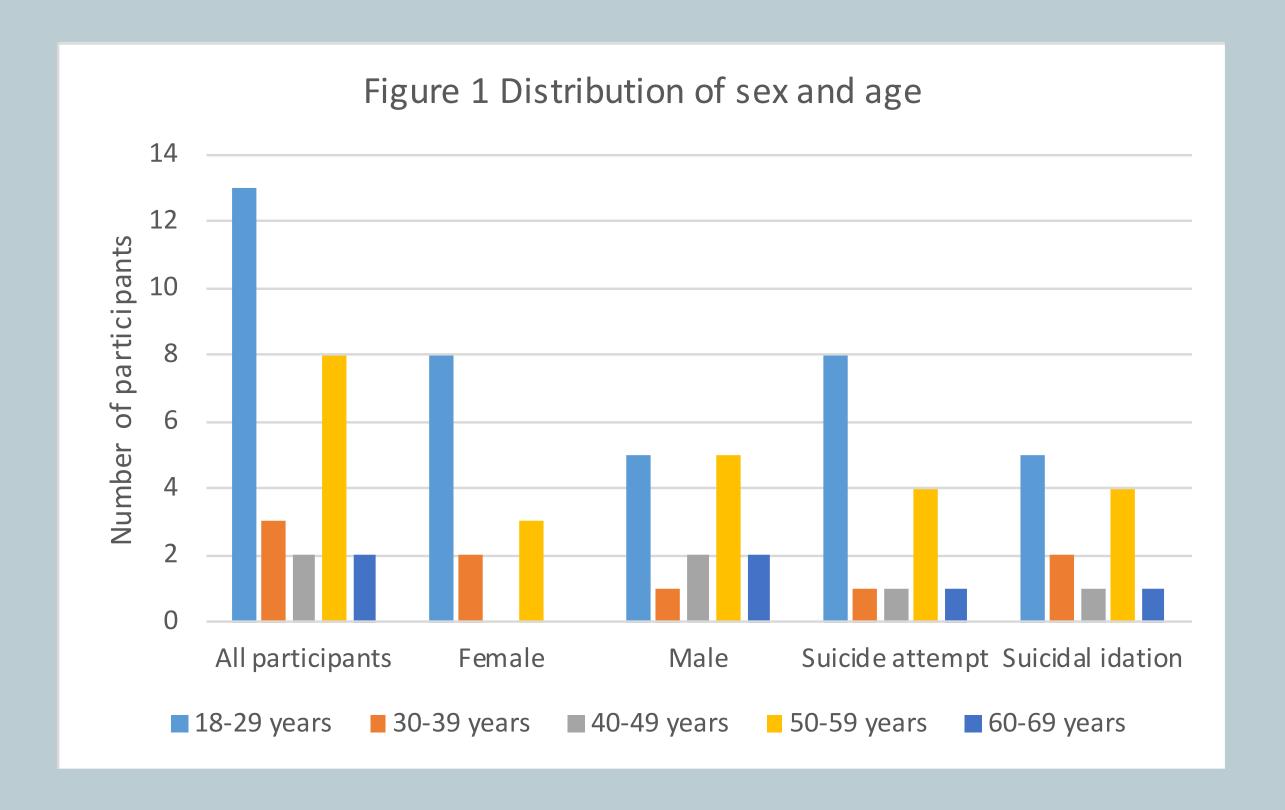
After completing the program the patients were asked to answer a questionnaire wich consisted of 10 items (5 questions using a 5 point Likert scale and elaborate open-ended questions, and 5 open-ended questions). The patients were asked to rate and describe the relevance and level of the psychoeducation, what they found helpful in respectively the teaching and the conversation in the group. They were also allowed to adress what they found difficult or uncomfortable in the participation as well as suggestions for improvements of the program.

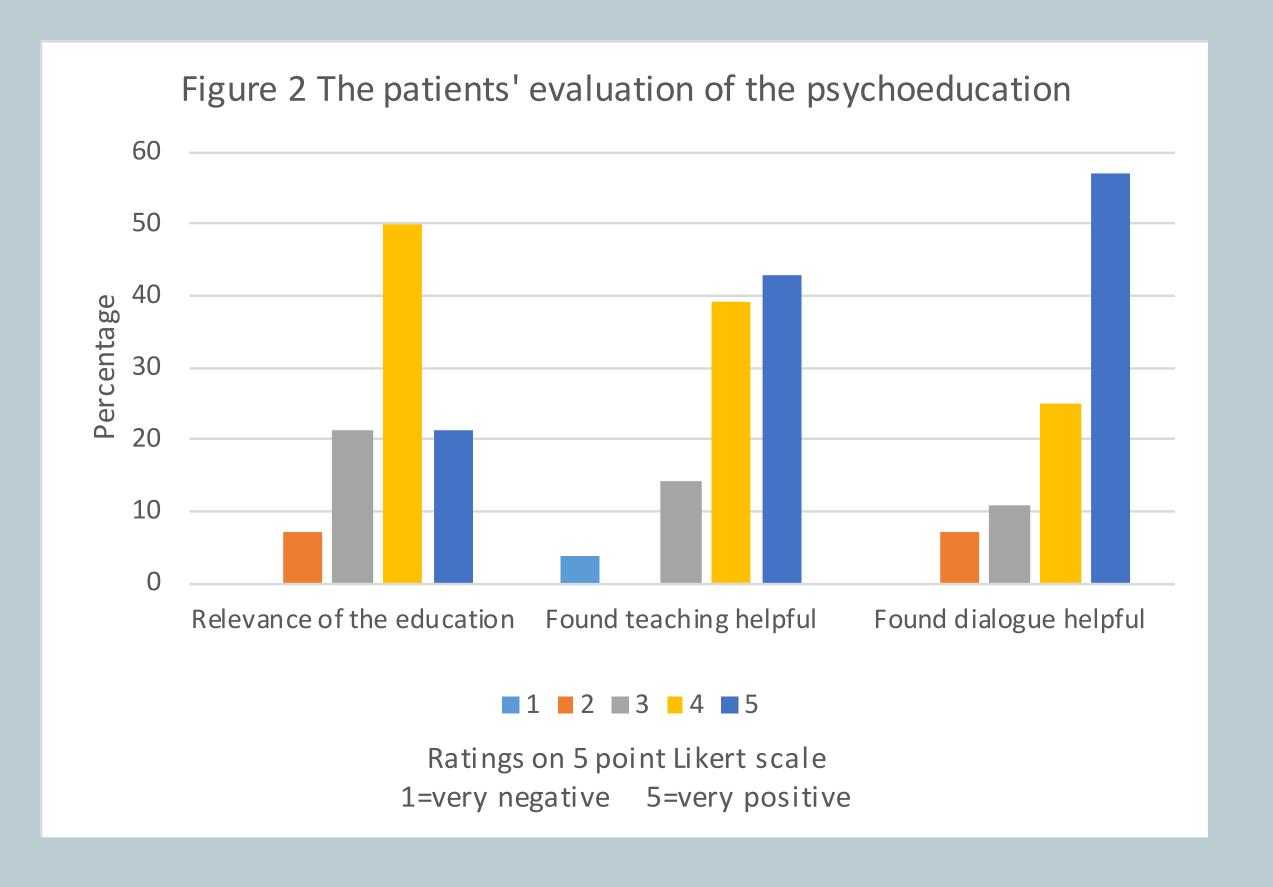
RESULTS

In all, 28 patients (15 men and 13 women) aged 18-61 years participated in the study (Figure 1). Of the patients, 15 were referred to the clinic after a suicide attempt, 13 due to suicidal ideation.

In general, the patients found the psychoeducation to be highly relevant and rewarding, especially the dialogue that took place in the groups was recognized as rewarding (Figure 2). The level of the information was evaluated as "appropriate" by 68 % of the patients and "high" by 28 %, they considered the teachers as competent.

The outcome of the teaching was overly rated positive; most the patients indicated that the teaching was helpful to the extent of "pretty much" or "very much". Patients emphasized that the program had helped them understand their reactions and strengthened their emotional literacy. They also felt recognized by the teachers as well as gained a better understanding of the psychotherapy. The conversation in the groups made them feel less lonely and stigmatized. Several patients mentioned that the participation was an "exposure in vivo", which made it easier for them to tell family and friends about their problems. In addition, the patients expressed a wish of more sessions and practical advice regarding coping with sleeping difficulties, dealing with difficult emotions and suicidal impulses.





Conclusion

The study shows that the patients find the psychoeducation rewarding: they gained a better understanding of their suicidality and strengtened their emotional literacy. They feel less lonely and stigmatized and their understanding of psychotherapy is enhanced. Based on the patients' and therapists'/teachers' feedback, more sessions will be added to the psychoeducational program as well as an effect study of the psychoeducation.