

Forensic Psychiatry Ward and Clinic of Psychiatry
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*Psychosocial functioning of the people with delusional disorders
under forensic psychiatric observation in the ward of forensic
psychiatry in 1998–2002*

In the literature on the subject frequency and kind of deeds committed by people with mental illness in relation to individual clinical diagnoses are analyzed mainly, whereas little attention is paid to the issue of their psychosocial functioning (Hajdukiewicz 1975; Uszkiewiczowa 1972; Wessely 1998). The problem of the psychosocial functioning of the people with delusional disorders acquires importance at the moment of prophylactic and resocializational influences (1, 2, 3).

The aim of the present work was psychosocial functioning analysis of the people with delusional disorders who were under forensic observation in the Forensic Psychiatry Ward of Clinic of Psychiatry in Lublin in the years 1998–2002.

MATERIAL

Seventy-three forensic psychiatric opinions of the people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing charged deeds were the material of the study.

The age structure of the examined was as follows: 20–30 years old – 4%, 31–40 y.o. – 30%, 41–50 y.o. – 45%, 51–60 y.o. – 15%, over 60 y.o. – 5%. The committed offences were the following: against property – larceny (6%), against life and health – beating (50%), homicide (9%), banditry (4%), against public safety – (9%), against family – physical and psychical ill-treatment of a family member (50%), menace (12%).

M e t h o d . In the present researches a method of medical documentation analysis was applied. The selection of the research method was made because of the abundance of information included in medical documentation, and with regard to the reliability of the information.

RESULTS

Based on the obtained data, two categories of research analysis were distinguished, namely: intellectual functioning and social functioning.

INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING OF THE PEOPLE EXAMINED

1. Global IQ obtained on the base of WAIS-R Test (PL). 2. OUN dysfunction determination on the base of Visual Memory Test (A. Benton), Bender–Gestalt–L. Bender Test, Geometrical Figures

Memory Test (Graham – Kendall). 3. The level of education – data obtained from the inquiry. Figure 1 presents data on the global IQ obtained by people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of attributed deeds.

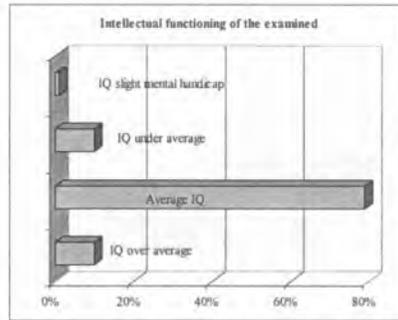


Fig. 1. Intellectual functioning of the examined

In the analysed group consisting of 73 people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds, over 79% obtained the average IQ, whereas 10% over the average IQ and 10% under the average IQ, and only 1% – mental handicap on a medium level.

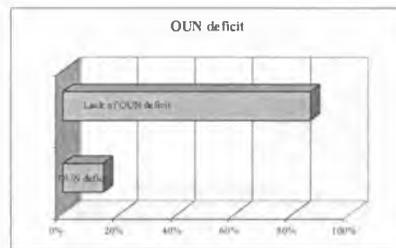


Fig. 2. OUN deficit

In the examined group the following results were obtained: 14% with diagnosed OUN deficit, and 86% with no OUN deficit.

EDUCATION LEVEL

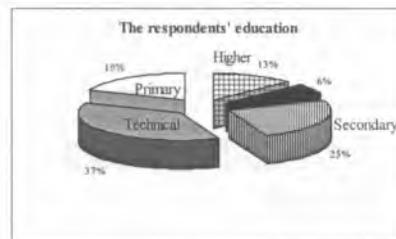


Fig. 3. The penal act perpetrators' education level, under forensic observation at the Forensic Psychiatry Ward of Medical University Clinic of Psychiatry

In the examined population the education level presented as follows: 37% – primary education, 25% – secondary education, 19% – technical, 6% – higher not completed.

THE EXAMINED PEOPLE'S SOCIAL FUNCTIONING

1. Civil status. 2. Alcohol abuse. 3. Self-aggressive behaviour. 4. Actual contacts with family.

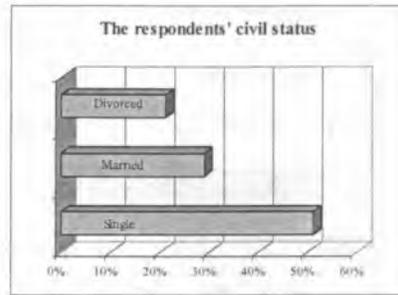


Fig. 4. The penal act perpetrators' civil status, under forensic observation at the Forensic Psychiatry Ward of Medical University Clinic of Psychiatry

The following results were obtained: as much as 51% were single, 29% – married and 21% – divorced. The spread of alcohol abuse symptoms in the examined group is presented in Figure 5.

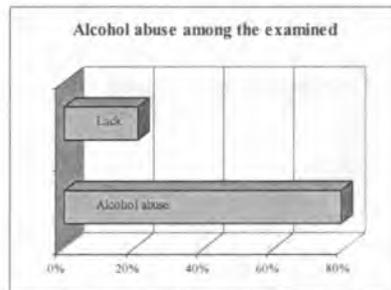


Fig. 5. Alcohol abuse among the examined

From the obtained data we can find that as much as 79% of people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds, produced the evidence of alcohol abuse, only among 21% there were no such symptoms. Self-aggressive behaviours of the people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds (Fig. 6).

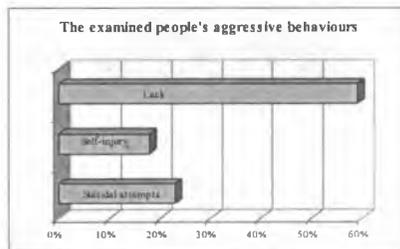


Fig. 6. The examined people's aggressive behaviours

Among 59% of the examined there were found no self-aggressive behaviours, whereas among 23% undertaken suicidal attempts were observed and 18% of the people did self-injury. Actual contacts with the families of the people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds (Fig. 7).

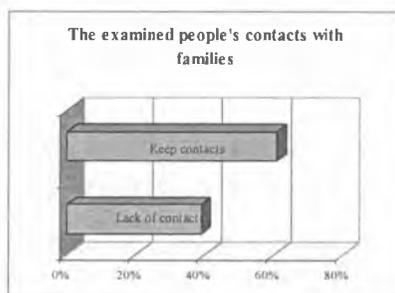


Fig. 7. The examined people's contacts with families

Most of the examined (59%) have contacts with their families. Among 39% of the patients manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds, no contacts with their families were recorded.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Intellectual functioning of the people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds, was on an average level. The patients' Global Intelligence Quotient was in 79% on an average intelligence level, in 10% – over average, whereas it 10% – below average and 1% – slight mental handicap. In the group of 73 respondents with delusional disorder in case of 86% OUN deficit was not found.

2. The patients' social functioning was on the low level. As much as 51% of the examined were single, only 29% – married and 21% – divorced. In case of 79% of respondents alcohol abuse was observed. Self-aggressive behaviours were manifested by 41%, among them 23% made suicidal attempts and 18% did self-injury. 39% of the examined population did not keep up contacts with their families.

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SUMMARY

In the literature on the subject frequency and kind of deeds committed by people with mental illness in relation to individual clinical diagnoses are analyzed mainly, whereas little attention is paid to the issue of their psychosocial functioning. Intellectual functioning of the people manifesting delusional disorders in the course of committing attributed deeds, was on an average level. The patients' social functioning was on a low level.

Funkcjonowanie psychospołeczne osób z zaburzeniami urojeniowymi, poddanych obserwacji sądowo-psychiatrycznej w Oddziale Psychiatrii Sądowej w latach 1998–2002

W literaturze przedmiotu analizowane są głównie częstość i rodzaj czynów dokonywanych przez osoby chore psychicznie w odniesieniu do poszczególnych rozpoznań klinicznych, zaś mało uwagi poświęca się zagadnieniu ich funkcjonowania psychospołecznego. Funkcjonowanie intelektualne osób ujawniających w trakcie dokonywania zarzucanych im czynów zaburzenia urojeniowe przedstawiało się na przeciętnym poziomie. Funkcjonowanie społeczne badanych było na niskim poziomie.