

Psychiatric Sequelae of Traumatic Brain Injuries

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Psychiatric illness is an increasing part of the burden of disease worldwide. While psychiatric illness has multifactorial origin, traumatic brain injuries are a significant contributing factor. Recent studies have suggested that 1 in 5 patients may develop psychiatric symptoms post-trauma. As patients with traumatic brain injuries tend to be younger and in the working age-group, the potential loss to society is greater if they remain unidentified and untreated. **METHODS:** A retrospective study of 152 cases of traumatic brain injury presenting to our Neurosurgical Clinic during the six-month period between October 2017 and March 2018 was conducted. Data about the number of patients who developed psychiatric symptoms post-trauma was extracted. **RESULTS:** Of the 152 patients, 42 (27.6%) developed either axis I psychiatric disorders or cognitive impairment. There was a bimodal distribution of psychiatric illness noted; mostly in either patient with mild or severe head injury. The majority of patients presented with cognitive and memory impairment post-trauma (53%), while another 20% presented with depression with concurrent anxiety and/or psychosis. We noted that those who were referred to Neuropsychiatry early showed good progress and were able to return to school and work, whereas patients with undetected symptoms or delayed referrals remained unemployed or were terminated from their workplace due to disruptive behavior. **CONCLUSION:** The results suggest that traumatic brain injury may cause lasting vulnerability to psychiatric illness in some patients. This study emphasizes the importance of psychiatric screening and follow-up after traumatic brain injuries.

KEYWORDS: traumatic brain injury, psychiatry, mental health

Psychological Consequences of Infertility Among Malaysian Infertile Men and Women: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Infertility is a significant public health issue that affected many individuals globally. Certainly, it is not only a 'disease of reproductive system' but it frequently resulting in negative sequels, which may impair the quality of life. It has been linked to several mental health disorders. This study aims to explore the psychological consequences of infertility among Malaysian infertile men and women. **METHODS:** This qualitative study was done in the fertility clinic of 'National Population and Family Development Board' (LPPKN), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The respondents were 17 men and women affected by primary and secondary infertility with no surviving children in 2016 and were purposefully selected via maximum variation sampling. Seventeen in-depth interviews were carried out using semi-structured interview guide. The data were transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis. **RESULTS:** The study found that infertile individuals experienced negative psychological sequels of infertility including the occurrence of mental health ailments. The findings of this study include eight main themes which are: 1) Grief, sadness and disappointment. 2) Inferiority complex and low self-esteem. 3) Self-blame. 4) Anger. 5) Stress. 6) Anxiety. 7) Depression. 8) Suicidal behaviour. These may reduce the quality of life of infertile individuals. Most infertile individuals had negative psychological consequences that usually progressively worsen over time. Our society perception that highly appreciate parenthood aggravated the problem. **DISCUSSION:** This study revealed that Malaysian infertile men and women experienced numerous psychological consequences with devastating effect on mental health. Thus, this study may facilitate fertility facilities to strategize and redesign better intervention for the infertile individuals.

KEYWORDS: Infertility, psychological, mental health