Suicidal Ideation among Chronic Schizophrenic Patients

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Suicide is one of the leading causes of premature death among patients with schizophrenia. The objective of this study was to assess suicidal ideation in people with schizophrenia. A sample of 60 male chronic schizophrenia inpatients from Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS), Ranchi, India; were administered Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) and Adult Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire (ASIQ). Results revealed that 16.6% chronic schizophrenic patients have significant suicidal ideation. Suicidal Ideation was significantly correlated with depressive cognitions of the patient. Most critical thoughts that made suicidal ideation in people with chronic schizophrenia were: better if not alive; thought of when I would kill myself; others would be happier if I am gone; wish I were dead, killing self would solve problems; thought about killing self but would not; life not worth living; no one cared if alive; wondered if could kill self and would kill self if things did not improve. The findings have important implications for the treatment and rehabilitation of chronic schizophrenic patients.

Keywords: suicidal ideation, chronic schizophrenia