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MEETING ABSTRACT

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Suicidality and drug self-poisoning during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Background: Suicide is conscious and deliberate attempt at taking one's own life. Due to the increase in suicide rates, suicide is considered a significant health and social problem. The uncertainties during the coronavirus pandemic led to new and/or exacerbation of existing psychiatric problems among which are also suicide attempts. Such stress will assumably lead to an increase of suicide rates during the coronavirus pandemic. Our goal was to determine a frequency of suicide behavior among patients that were treated at the Clinic for Psychiatry at the Clinical Centre of Vojvodina and to determine psychopathological and sociodemographic characteristics of this cohort.

Methods: A total of 112 patients' anamnestic data that contained information about a suicide attempt in 2020 were analysed. The data were statistically analyzed in JASP 0.14.1 and Microsoft Excel 2016.

Results: The analysis of collected data showed that suicide attempts were more frequent among female patients, 11–24 and 35–44 years old. We found no statistically significant correlation between suicidality and COVID-19 motivation for suicide attempt. The most frequent method used for attempting suicide was drug intoxication. The frequency of suicide attempts was higher in the second half of the year. Some patients attempted suicide more than once in 2020. Most of the patients have psychiatric comorbidities.

Discussion: During the coronavirus pandemic, an early diagnosis of psychiatric illness is of great importance. It is also significant for vulnerable groups to stay socially engaged in order to prevent as many as possible suicide attempts.

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