

Clinical Factors Affecting the Selection of a Suicidal Method by the Suicide Attempters Admitted to the Emergency and Critical Care Center

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Abstract

The selection of a suicide method is one of the decisive factors which divide suicide attempters into completers or survivors. Poisoning and gas, classified as non-violent methods, give the attempters more time for reconsideration, rescue, and intervention than to the attempters of all other suicide methods, such as hanging, jumping from high places, cutting and piercing, classified as violent methods. In a suicidal process, several clinical factors, such as previous attempts, psychiatric disorders, and personality traits, are supposed to affect the selection of a suicidal method. A research on which clinical factors most affect their selection of a suicide method has a great importance in elucidating the nature of a suicidal process and preventing their suicide completion. The authors investigated a total of 84 suicide attempters admitted to the emergency and critical care unit of Fukuoka University Hospital from April 2006 to December 2007 and from November 2009 to May 2011. They were interviewed on their age, gender, previous suicide attempt, and then suicide intent by using Suicide Intent Scale (SIS). Their psychiatric diagnoses were obtained by interviewing them and their family. The authors assessed their general dissociative tendencies by using Dissociative Experience Scale (J-DES) and their trait impulsivity by using Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11). Male suicide attempters tended to prefer violent suicide methods. ($\chi^2=3.73$, $p=0.053$) 70% of those who had previous suicide attempts selected a non-violent method. ($\chi^2=17.2$, $p=0.0001$) Suicide attempters with increased level of dissociation were inclined to select a non-violent method. Gender, previous suicide attempt, and dissociative trait were strongly associated with the selection of a suicidal method. No significant associations were found between all other clinical factors and their suicide methods. These results needed to be further investigated to be utilized to promote a suicide preventive measure.

Key words : Suicide method, Violent, Non-violent, Dissociation, Impulsivity