

Clinical profile of inpatients referred to a consultation-liaison psychiatry service in a general hospital in Chile

Libuy J., Díaz P., Fuentes X.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Hospital Dra. Eloísa Díaz de La Florida, Chile



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA
DE CHILE

OBJECTIVE

Specific models of cooperation in the form of consultation-liaison service between specialized psychiatry departments and other medical departments play a crucial role in providing care to patients. The aim of these work is described the characteristics of consultation-liaison psychiatry (CLP) services in a general hospital in Chile.

METHODS

Data were collected prospectively with standardized operating procedures on consecutive inpatient consultation requests to the Dra. Eloisa Díaz Hospital in La Florida CLP service in Chile in 5-year-period (2014-2018)

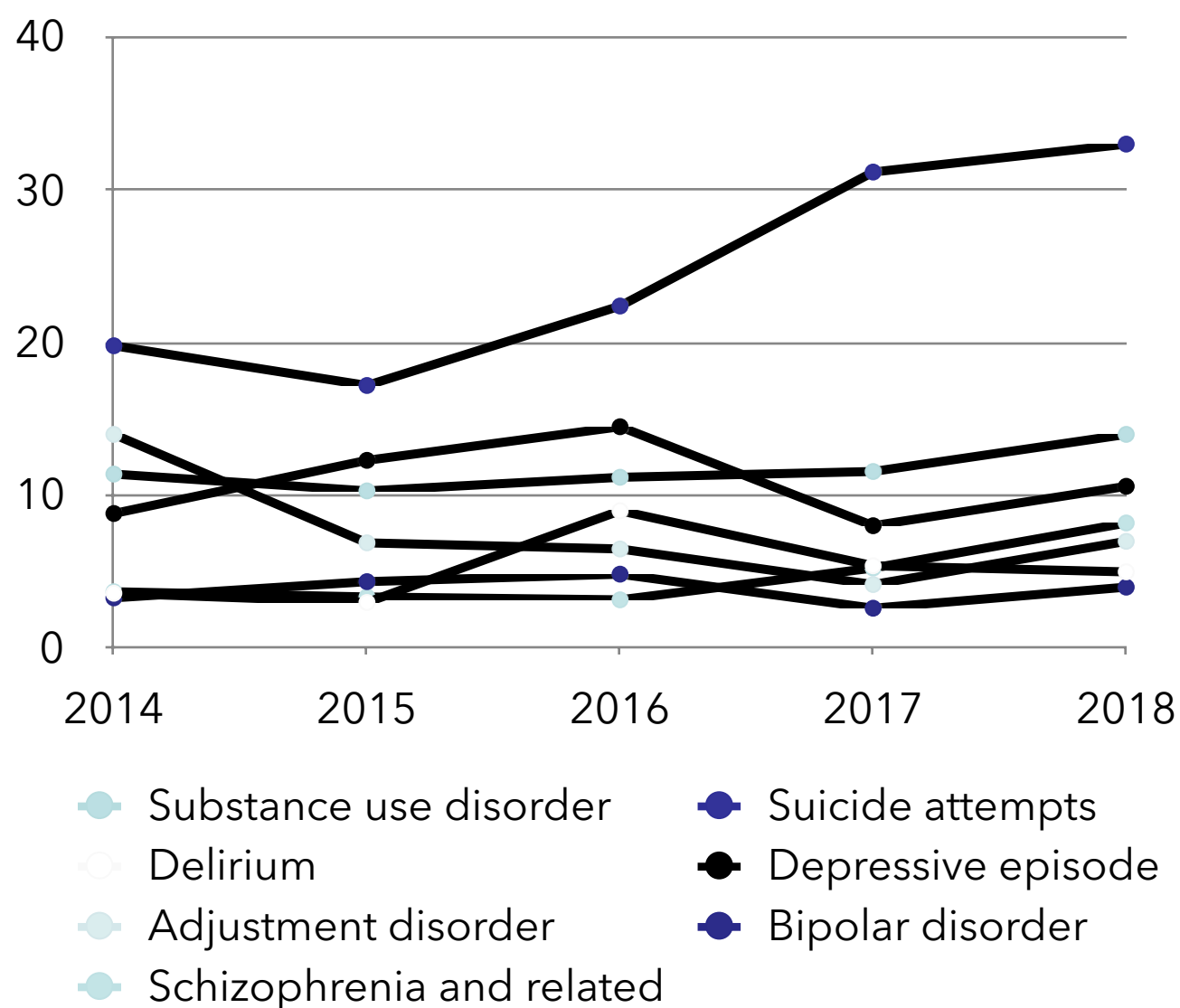
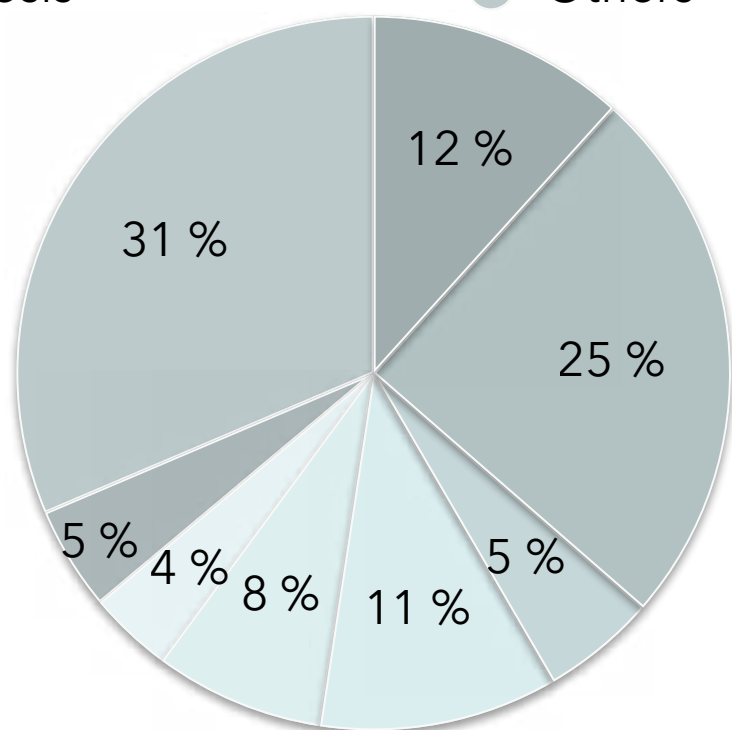
Subsequently, the relevance of these was reviewed.

Participants: we used a nonprobability sampling method, assessing adult inpatients admitted to non-psychiatric units of our general hospital who were consecutively referred to our CLP service.

RESULTS

The most frequent psychiatric diagnoses were suicide attempts (24,7%) and substance use and related disorder (11,7%). The majority of patients were treated with psychopharmacologic drugs (87%). There has been an increase in the number of CLP per year, mainly due to suicide attempts (2014: 19,8% and 2018: 33%) and substance use disorders (2014: 11% and 2018: 14%).

- Substance use disorder
- Suicide attempts
- Delirium
- Depressive episode
- Adjustment disorder
- Bipolar disorder
- Psicosis
- Others



CONCLUSION

Regardless of medical diagnoses, the focus of liaison psychiatrists intervention remains the management of clinical manifestations of suicide attempts, adjustment/mood disorders and substance-related disorders. We consider that studies like ours are useful to describe the CLP activity that takes place in public hospitals in latinamerica, and to standardize the clinical procedures.

It is important to optimize human resources in the public health service. To improve the cost-effectiveness of liaison psychiatry, we have to know our clinical profile, and made an adequate prioritization, for provide better care to patients who require psychiatric help more urgently.

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