



Sociodemographic characteristics of bosnian war veterans with enduring personality change after catastrophic experience diagnosis

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INTRODUCTION:

Enduring personality change after catastrophic experience is diagnostic category includes in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD 10).

According ICD 10 Enduring personality change after catastrophic experience present for at least two years, following exposure to catastrophic stress. The stress must be so extreme that is not necessary to consider personal vulnerability in order to explain its profound effect on the personality. The disorder is characterized by hostile or distrustful attitude toward the world, social withdrawal, feeling of emptiness or hopelessness, a chronic feeling of „being on edge“ as if constantly threatened and estrangement. Post traumatic stress disorder may precede this type of personality change.(1)

Despite the fact that the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina has ended 20 years ago, war veterans with the diagnosis F62.0 (enduring personality change after catastrophic experience) are on the margins of the society, unemployed and at the verge of existence. These patients have no adequate family or social support, no possibility of occupational retraining. Therefore, they are lacking proper integration in the society. Consequences of such situation could be seen through family relationships dysfunction, feelings of rejection, comorbidities and in particular, abuse of alcohol. Psychological destabilizations are often, which are causing new re-hospitalizations.

OBJECTIVE:

To examine the sociodemographic characteristics of the patients, the Bosnian and Herzegovinian's war veterans, who were hospitalized in our hospital during the period of 2014-2016.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

In this study where 20 patients included that by ICD 10 were fulfilling criteria for F62.0 diagnosis. We analyzed sociodemographic characteristics (age, education, employment status, marital status) as well as the most frequent symptoms of the disease and most frequent comorbidities.

RESULTS:

Out of 20 patients, all of them were male (100%), with average age of 51 years. Among these patients 12 (60%) had completed secondary education, 1 patient (5%) had completed college education, and 7 patients (35%) had completed primary school education (figure 1). When it comes to marital status, 12 (60%) patients were married, 6 (30%) were divorced, while 2 patients (10%) were single (figure 2).

Out of all examined patients, only 2 patients (10%) were employed, 5 patients (25%) were retired, and 13 (65%) patients were unemployed without any kind of income (figure 3). All patients were participants of war (100%), out of which 17 patients (85%) were soldiers, and 3 patients (15%) were civil victims of war. The most frequent symptoms with all examinees were insomnia, nightmares, depressive mood and social isolation. Alcohol abuse, as the most frequent comorbid state was present in 11 patients (55%), while 9 of them (45%) do not consume alcohol at all (figure 4).

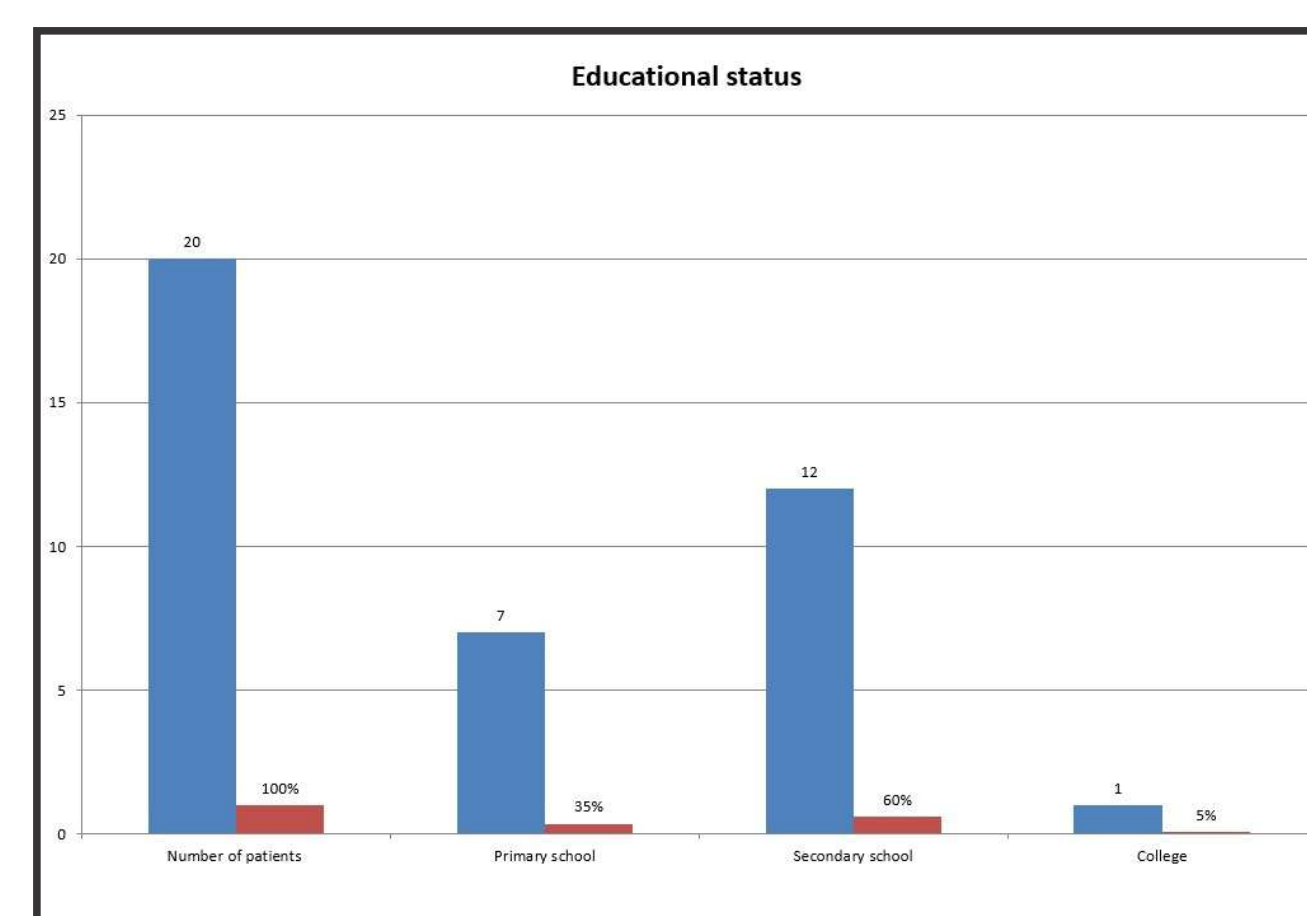


Figure 1

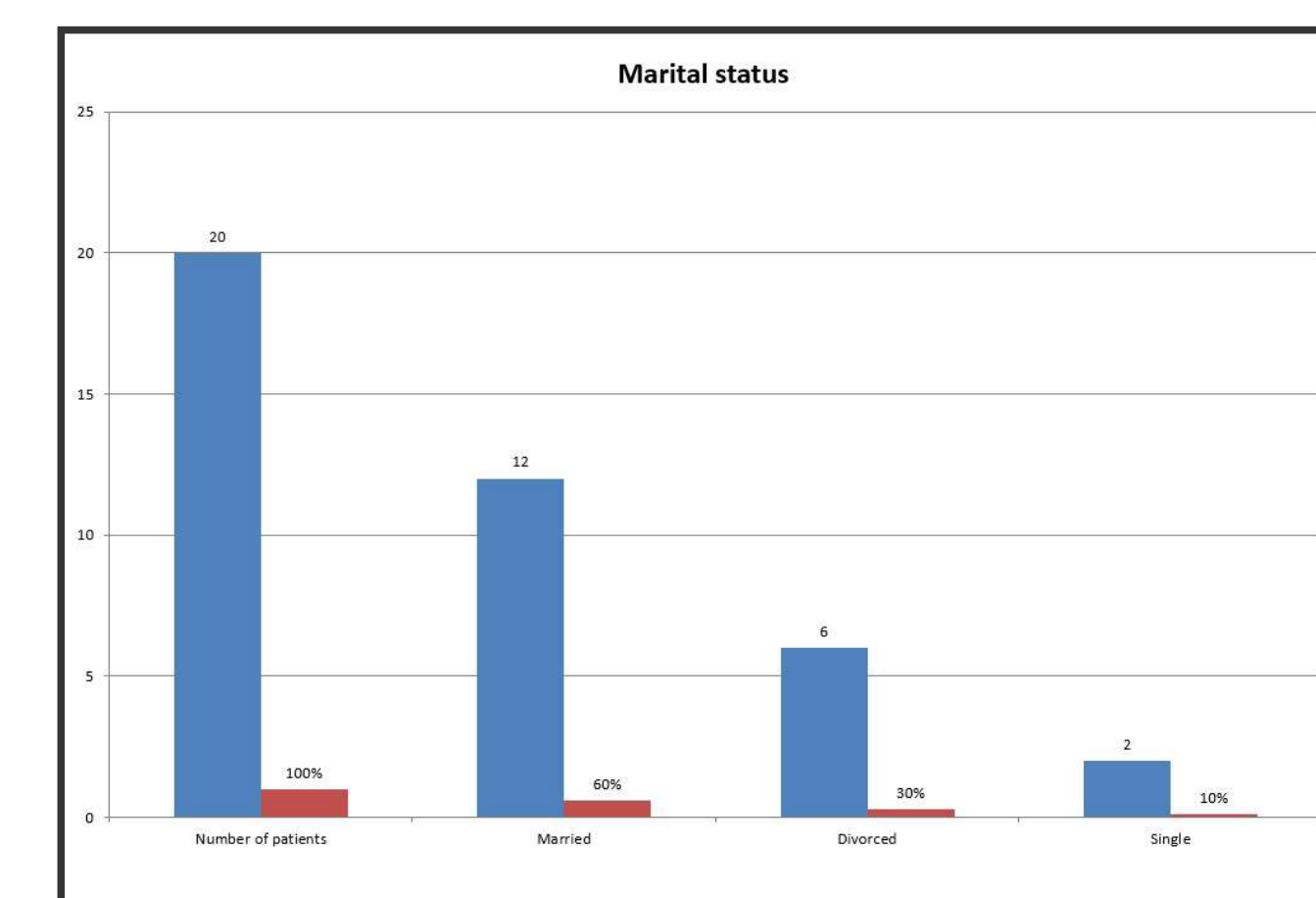


Figure 2

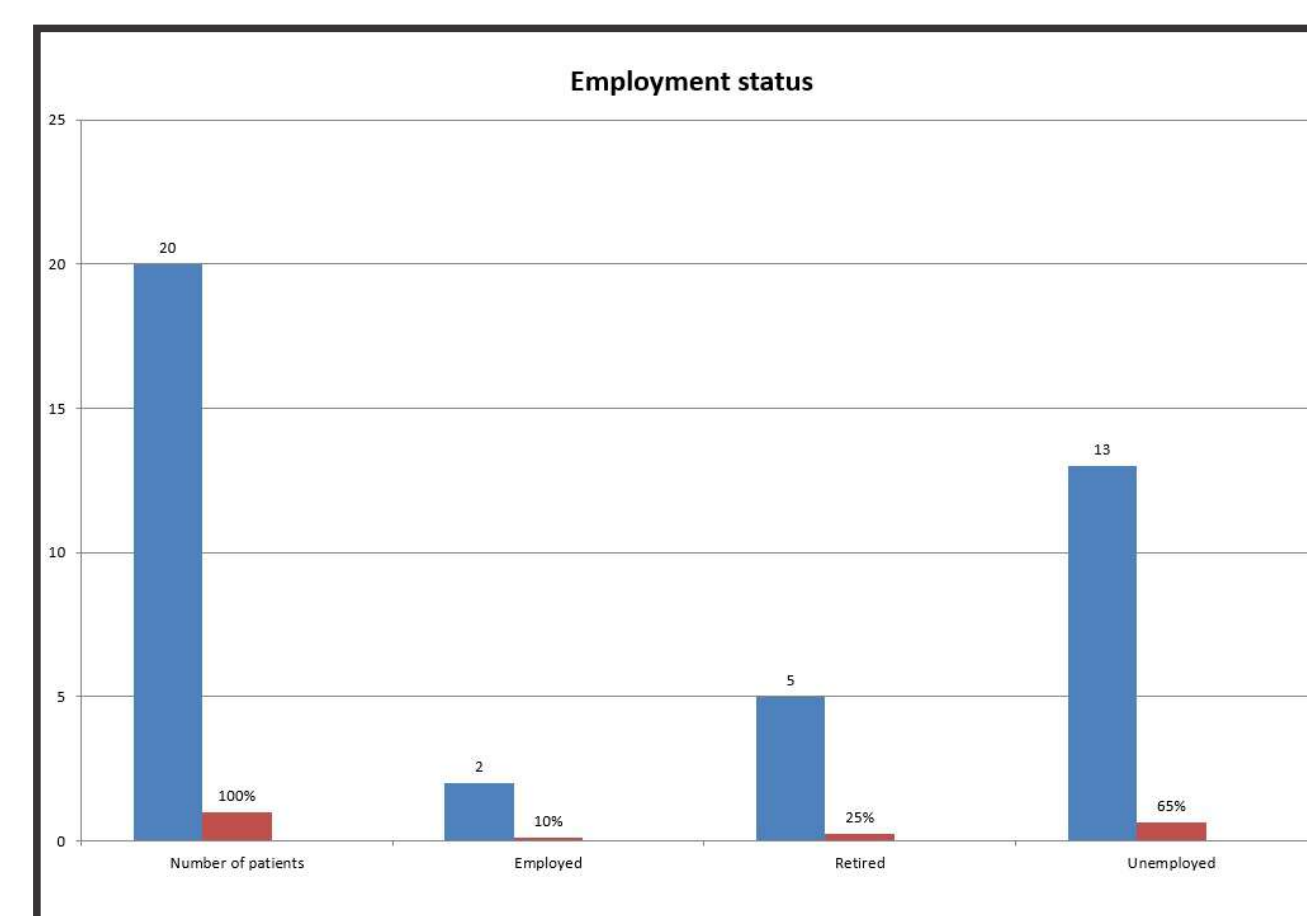


Figure 3

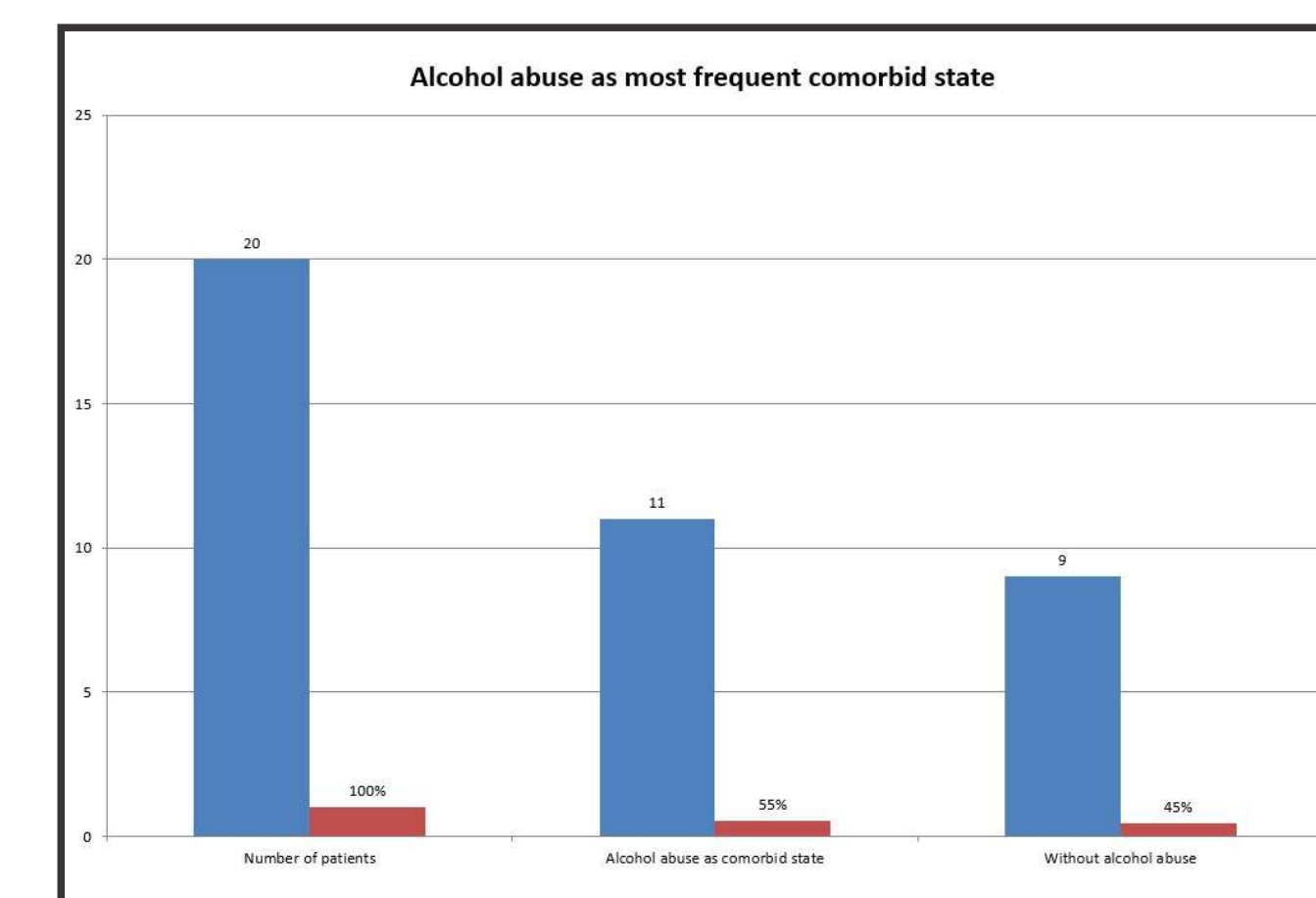


Figure 4

CONCLUSION:

ALL ANALYZED PATIENTS WITH THE DIAGNOSIS F62.0 ARE MAINLY SOCIALLY ENDANGERED, WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE SOCIAL OR FAMILY SUPPORT, WHICH REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL PROBLEM IN ADDITION TO THE MEDICAL CONDITION THAT DEMANDS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE WIDER SOCIAL COMMUNITY.

References:

1. International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision