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Social determinants of involuntary psychiatric hospital admissions in Ontario, Canada

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Introduction: In Ontario, Canada, patients may be admitted to the hospital involuntarily if they are deemed to be suffering from symptoms of a mental disorder that may result in imminent serious bodily harm to themselves or others, or that may cause serious physical impairment to themselves (e.g., inability to keep themselves safe and warm in the winter). This measure can be life-saving. However, in addition to ethical and human rights considerations, resorting to coercive admissions may be an indication that those who are suffering from mental illness are not able to access or receive timely and appropriate intervention. While recent studies have suggested that the rate of involuntary hospital admission may be increasing, data on social determinants of involuntary hospital admissions are limited.

Objectives: We examined social factors associated with involuntary admissions using a Canadian provincial database.

Methods: Binary logistic regression models were conducted to examine the associations between social factors (low income, indigeneity, rurality, housing type) and involuntary admissions, controlling for age, sex, and psychiatric diagnoses. Data from March 2019 to March 2021 was extracted from the Ontario Mental Health Reporting System admission dataset, comprising of a sample of 9,848 patients admitted to eight psychiatric hospitals in Ontario. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals are reported.

Results: In 2021, the proportion of involuntary patients increased significantly by 6.8 percentage points to 55.7% compared to the previous year (48.9%). Indigenous status (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) [1.75 (1.38-2.21) **], living in rural areas [2.78 (2.48-3.12)], living in assisted residence [1.41 (1.21-1.64) **], homelessness [1.63 (1.38-1.91) **], male sex [1.21 (1.10-1.33) **] and younger age [0.99 (0.98-0.99) **] were associated with involuntary admissions, while income was not a significant factor. Compared to a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder, substance use disorders [0.11 (0.10-0.13) **] and mood and anxiety disorders [0.32 (0.29-0.36) **] showed decreased odds of involuntary admission, while neurocognitive disorders increased the odds of involuntary admission [3.86 (2.91-5.11) **].

Conclusions: Consistent with other findings, involuntary psychiatric hospital admissions in ON, Canada, have increased recently, which may in part be related to the pandemic. Rurality, indigenous status, and unstable housing have been found to be associated with involuntary admissions. The study findings support the need for better preventive and intervention strategies to serve vulnerable psychiatric patients, including addressing the social determinants of health such as housing, and increasing access to culturally competent and safe community-based mental health supports and services.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Genetics and Molecular Neurobiology

EPP0584

Comparison of Val66met Polymorphism of BDNF gene in patients of bipolar disorder and healthy controls.

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Introduction: The study aims to explore the utility of BDNF Val66Met polymorphism as a potential biomarker in Indian bipolar disorder patients and its correlation with clinical characteristics.

Objectives: Genotyping Val66Met in BDNF gene Exploring its association with bipolar disorder (BD).

Methods: 150 consenting BD patients and matched controls were recruited using a case-control study design. BD severity was assessed using Young's mania rating scale and the Clinical Global Impression - Severity (CGI-S) scale. BDNF Val66Met polymorphism was identified through real-time PCR after DNA extraction. Data was tested for normal distribution. Genotype frequencies between two groups were compared and the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium assumptions were tested using Chi-Square tests. Clinical-genotypic associations were explored using the Kruskal-Wallis test and confirmed using hierarchical regression.

Results: Our sample had more males (60%) than females (40%) with mean age of 35.05 years. Most patients had established bipolar disorder and were severely ill (CGI: 38.75, YMRS). Val66Met SNP genotype frequency differed significantly between cases and controls. Val66Val genotype and Val allele were higher in cases. Results consistent with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

Table 1. Genotype frequencies of BDNF (rs6265) in cases and controls

GENOTYPE			
	СС	СТ	TT
CASES	94(62.6%)	47(31.3%)	9(6%)
CONTROL	71(47.3%)	69(46%)	10(6.6%)
CHI-SQUARE- 7.431	DF(Degree of freedom) - 2	p-value- 0.024	

Table 2. Dominant genotype frequencies in cases and controls

DOMINANT GENOTYPE			
	СС	CT+TT	
CASES	94(62.6%)	56(37.3%)	
CONTROLS	71(47.3%)	79(52.6)	
CHI-SQUARE-7.125	DF(Degree of freedom)-1	p-value-0.007	