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Mental Disorders and Suicide Attempt in Rural China

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Abstract

The prevalence of various mental disorders and their age and gender specific characteristics among suicide attempters remains unclear in rural China. This study using 1:1 paired case-control design included 409 suicide attempters and 409 paired controls matched on age, gender and place of residence. Mental disorders were assessed using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-TR Axis I Disorders. The prevalence of mental disorders was 32.3% for suicide attempters and 4.9% for paired controls. Mental disorder constituted a significant risk factor for suicide attempt with an adjusted odds ratio of 7.16 (95%CI: 3.65-14.04). The prevalence of mental disorders was higher among male than female suicide attempters. Major depressive disorder was most common in female suicide attempters while alcohol use disorder was most common in the males. The prevalence of mental disorders seemed to increase with age. Suicide attempters of higher ages were more prone to have mood disorders, especially a major depression. Suicide attempters with mental disorders differed from those without mental disorders on a number of socio-economic characteristics and suicidal behavior features. These insights should be taken into account in strategies and efforts to improve mental health care and ultimately to reduce suicidal behavior among residents in rural China.

Key words: mental disorder; suicide attempt; case-control study; rural China

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