

Currently, most of the published studies focus on a causal relationship between the pathological use of the Internet and the appearance of attention deficit/hyperkinetic disorder, especially in children and adolescents. Although the results are promising, we cannot neglect the multitude of additional consequences of excess Internet use, which these studies targeting a single pathology overlook. Moreover, using the Internet involves exposure to an ever-increasing number of stimuli, which is why switching attention and maintaining it is currently an insufficiently researched parameter. Regarding the impact of Internet use on individual functioning, there is a relatively modest number of studies in the literature that outline a correlation between excess Internet use and various psychiatric comorbidities.

Conclusions: The impact of the research on the general population could be an increased awareness of negative effects and the development of prevention programs.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

COVID-19 and related topics

EPP0111

Psychometric Properties of the Depression, Anxiety, Stress Scales-21 (DASS-21) in a Portuguese Sample during the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: The COVID-19 global crisis has resulted in significant disruptions in the lives of students in higher education, leading to negative consequences for their academic achievements and general psychological well-being.

Objectives: In this study, we sought to examine the psychometric properties of the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21) among students in Portuguese higher education institutions during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and its efficacy in capturing mental health symptoms due to a global health crisis.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, a convenience sampling method was used to enlist a total of 1522 participants. The sample consisted of 75.1% women and 79.2% undergraduate students. Participants completed an electronic survey that was designed using the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21) — a self-report instrument measuring anxiety, depression, and stress.

Results: The findings of the study indicated a significant occurrence of depressive symptoms [≥ 10] ($N = 434$, 28.5%), anxiety symptoms [≥ 7] ($N = 551$, 36.2%), and stress symptoms [≥ 11] ($N = 544$, 35.7%). Based on the collected data, a Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was conducted in order to examine the factor structure of the scale. The analysis revealed a three-factor solution that corresponded to the three subscales of the DASS-21. The Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) correlation ratio was then used to assess the discriminant validity, with good results. Results showed that the DASS21 has satisfactory reliability indexes (Cronbach's $\alpha > 0.90$).

Conclusions: In light of the notable changes in living conditions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the present study has shown that the DASS-21 instrument has maintained its reliability and validity. Consequently, this finding supports the appropriateness of using the DASS-21 as a screening tool for assessing mental health among students in Portugal. Moreover, it is recommended that academics and healthcare practitioners use the DASS-21 as a tool for assessing the levels of psychological distress experienced by students. Additional validation studies of this scale are required, using bigger and more representative populations.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0112

The neuro-psychological manifestations of COVID-19 in healthcareworkers

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Introduction: At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, respiratory expression of SARS-CoV-2 infection was the most worrying one. Later, other symptoms appeared to be more disturbing such as neurological and psychiatric manifestations, which may be due to direct or indirect effects of this virus on the central nervous system.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of neuropsychological manifestations of covid-19 in healthcareworkers and to identify their risk factors.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional descriptive epidemiological study, carried out in the teaching hospitals of Farhat Hached and Sahloul of Sousse. All healthcareworkers, having tested positive for SARS-COV 2 during the period from 01/09/2020 to 28/02/2021 were enrolled. The collection of socio-professional and medical data was based on a pre-established synoptic form completed during an interview with the participants.

Results: A total of 953 COVID-19 patients were enrolled in this study. The mean age was 40.1 ± 10.5 years, with a sex ratio of 0.32. In our sample, 37.9% of patients had comorbidities such as psychiatric history (4.9%) and neurological history (2.4%). The prevalence of neuropsychological manifestations of covid-19 was 72.6%. The main neuropsychological manifestations were headache (50.3%), anosmia (40.7%), dysgeusia (29.9%), sleep disturbances (0.5%), dizziness (1, 2%) and paresthesia (0.3%). Neuropsychological symptoms of long covid were dominated by memory impairment (10.7%), anosmia (8.5%), headache (7.3%), dizziness (3.4%) and sleep disturbances (3.1%).

The occurrence of neuropsychological manifestations was significantly associated with age ($OR=1.6$; $p<10^{-3}$), male gender ($OR=0.57$; $p=0.03$), smoking ($OR=1.7$; $p=0.033$), history of hypertension ($OR=1.6$; $p=0.038$), history of diabetes ($OR=2.4$; $p<10^{-3}$) and hospitalization ($OR=4.03$; $p<10^{-3}$).

Conclusions: The high prevalence of neuropsychological manifestations underlines the importance of studying their pathogenesis in order to better adapt their therapeutic protocols.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0113

Emergency Department Presentations to the Mental Health Services at Sligo University Hospital during the COVID pandemic

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Introduction: In March 2020, the WHO declared the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 a pandemic and Ireland went into its first lockdown. The Mental Health Liaison team at Sligo University Hospital operate 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week, with out of hours covered by the on-call Psychiatry junior doctors. The service has seen an increase in referrals, many of whom are known to community mental health teams.

Objectives: We reviewed the numbers and trends of mental health presentations to the Emergency Department at Sligo University Hospital throughout the pandemic, including the patterns of presentations around the implementation of lockdowns.

Methods: The Liaison Mental Health Service at Sligo University Hospital gathers data relating to numbers and types of presentation to the service. Data was taken from a pre-existing database of psychiatric presentations to the emergency department at Sligo University Hospital including patient demographics, nature of presenting complaint, time period in which they presented and whether they were previously linked in with a community mental health team in the preceding six months. We also looked at the pattern of ED mental health presentations from March 2019 to August 2021. In order to compare psychiatric presentations pre and during covid, data was broken down into two groups: the twelve months preceding March 2020 and the twelve months from March 2020. Categorical data were analysed using the Chi squared test for homogeneity in SPSS.

Results: Overall, there was a 14% increase in mental health presentations during the pandemic. There was a significantly greater proportion of presentations of psychosis during the pandemic period ($p < .014$) and for medication review ($p = .03$) and significantly less presenting with addiction ($p < 0.001$). Of those patients seen in the Emergency Department in 2021, 54.3% were known to the CMHT in the previous 6 months. In 2019, mental health presentations made up 1.36% of total ED attendances. This increased to 1.47% in 2020. From January to August 2021, 2.62% of ED attendances were mental health presentations.

Image:

	Pre Covid 19	During Covid 19	P value
Gender (Male/female)	280/282	297/343	.19
SI/DSH	336 (61%)	357(56%)	.13
Depression/Anxiety	69 (12.5%)	100 (16%)	.10
Addictions	70 (13%)	36 (6%)	.00
Psychosis	22 (4%)	46 (7.3%)	.01
aggression/agitation	8 (1.5%)	14 (2%)	.33
Medication rv/Advice	6 (1%)	18 (3%)	.03
Mania	2 (0.5%)	6 (1%)	.23
Others	39 (7%)	54 ((8.5%)	.34
Total	562	640	

Conclusions: The Covid-19 pandemic led to increased mental health presentations to Sligo University Hospital emergency department, with a significantly greater proportion presenting with psychosis and for medication review. These findings have implications around patient care and service provision. These results show that the prevalence of mental health has increased during the pandemic, particularly severe and enduring mental illnesses. New strategies must be implemented to accommodate to this increase in presentations.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0115

The Role of Pet Companionship in Older Adults' Mental Health: A Qualitative Study during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Introduction: Human functioning in the physical, emotional, psychological, and social arenas is improved by contact with animals.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore the affective relationship of older adults with their pets during the COVID-19 pandemic; and to assess how the affective relationship with pets contributed to older adults' mental health.

Methods: This qualitative study included 176 participants aged 65-88 years from Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Spain. All interviews went through content analysis.