Objective: To examine associations between gender and diagnostic profiles of life events among patients admitted to a general hospital after attempted suicide.

Materials and methods: Participants (n = 86) were patients consecutively admitted to a general hospital emergency care unit over the inclusion period of 26 months after an act of attempted suicide. They were interviewed within 2 days using the EPSIS protocol, the MINI and SCID-II interviews and a range of scales measuring life events (Brugha’s scale) and alcohol abuse (AUDIT). Logistic regression was used in data analyses. Results are given in Odds Ratios with 95% Confidence Intervals.

Results: Men reported more unemployment, [23.5(2.8-197.6)], loss of work, [4.7(1.2-17.3)], serious economic problems, [2.7(1.1-6.8)], problems with police and presented in court, [8.6(2.2-30.3)]. Major depression (MD) was associated with the separation from spouse due to interpersonal conflict [3.6(1.1-11.7)], however, when adjusted for gender, it tended towards significance only in men and was non-significant for women. Comorbidity of MD with anxiety disorders, alcohol abuse or borderline personality disorders were not associated with any specific life event.

Conclusions: Irrespective of diagnostic profile, life events related to legal problems and loss of job/work and marriage were significant for men who were admitted to a general hospital after a suicide attempt, irrespective of diagnostic profile.