

Introduction In psychotherapeutic clinic, patients without visible marks of acne report this experience with great emotional charge, even when it occurred many years before.

Objectives This observation arose the interest in investigating the psychological impact of acne, which led us to find out what acneic subjects think of their disease, how they deal with it and, simultaneously, evaluate the beliefs of dermatologists on it. The present work is part of an investigation whose aim is to develop a program for the promotion of skills to deal with acne and its effects.

Methods The inventory of beliefs, behaviours and treatment of acne – ICA – was developed through the content analysis of non-structured interviews to health care professionals and to patients with acne and/or who had it. This inventory was applied to a convenience sample ($n = 367$), to a university sample ($n = 1666$) and to a sample of 95 dermatologists – the 16 questions related to the beliefs on acne.

Results We found general agreement with some statements. Most respondents agree with a group of statements, though opinions are divided. Most respondents “disagree” or “disagree more than agree” with “...ingestion of chocolates or dairy products would cause acne”. Finally, there is no consensus about “...caused by the combination of psychological and hormonal factors”.

Conclusions Further studies are needed, on the impact of acne in patient’s quality of life. We also found great interest of promoting a close collaboration between dermatologists and psychology.

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EV947

The perceived problem solving skill of Iranian nursing students:

A cross-sectional study

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Background The ability to solve problems and make decisions creatively has become paramount to new nursing graduates, as these skills assist them with recognizing and evaluating situations that require prompt attention. The purpose of this study was to determine and compare nursing student’s perceived levels of own problem solving skills in various years of their 4-year program.

Methods This is a cross-sectional study. Three hundred and twenty-two undergraduate nursing students in BSc nursing program participated in this study. The study setting was nursing School of Iran university of medical sciences. The Problem solving inventory (PSI) was used to data gathering. The scale was divided into three subscales including: problem-solving confidence (PSC), approaching avoidance style (AAS), and personal control (SC). Students involved in the study signed the study Informed consent.

Results Findings showed that the mean score of total problem solving skill was 89.52 ± 21.58 . The mean score of the 4th year students in PSI was less than other year students (84.18 ± 27.47 vs 89.13 ± 18.71 , 91.57 ± 21.87 , and 91.52 ± 20.8). This study finding revealed that 4th year students in 3 factors of problem solving (PSC, AAS, PC) considered themselves more successful than others. Meanwhile, when the results are compared according, no significant differences occurred among the student in different years ($F: 1.46, P \leq 0.22$).

Conclusion Educating should help students to reach the desired levels of problem solving skills by allowing them to acquire and practice these abilities in the field. Nursing students with advanced problem solving skills will be essential for this changing society.

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Stigma: Dimensions and correlates in a multi-ethnic population

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Introduction Mental health stigma is a multidimensional concept that encompasses many different themes and definitions. Public stigma is defined as the degree to which the general public holds negative views and discriminates against a specific group.

Objective To understand the context and correlates of stigma in multi-ethnic Singapore.

Aims The current study aimed to (i) explore the factor structure of the Depression Stigma Scale and the Social Distance Scale using an exploratory structural equation modelling approach and (ii) examine the correlates of the identified dimensions of stigma in the general population of Singapore.

Methods Data for the current study came from a larger nationwide cross-sectional study of mental health literacy conducted in Singapore. All respondents were administered the Personal and Perceived scales of the Depression Stigma Scale and the Social Distance scale to measure personal stigma and social distance respectively.

Results The findings from the factor analysis revealed that personal stigma formed two distinct dimensions comprising “Weak-not-Sick” and “Dangerous/Unpredictable” components while social distance stigma items loaded strongly into a single factor. Those of Malay and Indian ethnicity, lower education, lower income status and those who were administered the depression and alcohol abuse vignette were significantly associated with higher weak-not-sick scores. Those of Indian ethnicity, 6 years of education and below, lower income status and those who were administered the alcohol abuse vignette were significantly associated with higher dangerous/unpredictable scores.

Conclusion There is a need for well-planned and culturally relevant anti-stigma campaigns in this population.

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Hospitalization durations and remission rates of patients in a psychiatry clinic

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Objective The duration of hospitalization is related to many well-documented factors in literature. However, little is known about psychiatric patients and psychiatric service delivery in non-Western developing countries. It is supposed that major contributing factors in discharge are remission rates and functional levels. Therefore, this naturalistic preliminary study aimed at analyzing and describing the hospitalization duration and remission rates of a psychiatric population treated in the mental health inpatient facility.

Methods A total of 88 male patients, who were hospitalized in a psychiatry clinic were included in the study. They were evaluated at