Consecutive mental health patients of a family doctor in Shanghai – 6 years experience

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Introduction:



- The prevalence of generalized anxiety disorder is estimated to be between 5 and 8 percent,
- and of depression 10-14 % in the primary care setting ^{[1] [2] [3]}.



 Annual spending with depression in the US has been estimated at 83 billion dollars
[4], and 118 billion euros in Europe ^[5].



 Globalization has increased the population number of expatriates all over the globe, who are exposed to several stressors which are associated with increased chance of depression, anxiety and adjustment disorders ^[6]

 Shanghai has a large expatriate population – exceeding 173,000 in December 2012 ^[7]

Objective:



- To describe the socio demographic profile of the mental health patients seen by the author, in a family medicine outpatient setting in Shanghai, the most common diagnosis and perceived causative factors.
- To verify the presence or not of any association of factors.

Methodology:



- Design: This is a retrospective, descriptive study of consecutive patients with mental health
- Duration: May 2008 to May 2014
- Location: PH and UFH (International clinic and hospital in Shanghai)



Instruments: DSM-IV

 Data: sex, age, civil status, nationality, diagnosis and perceived reason

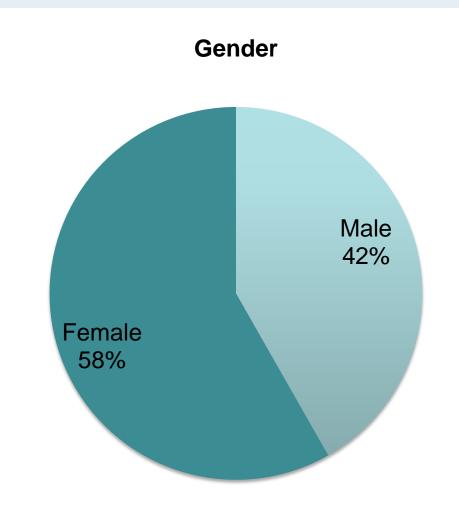
Statistical analysis:



- Diagnosis were grouped as follow:
- 1.**Anxiety group**: generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, acute stress disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, phobia and social phobia.
- 2. **Depression group**: major depressive disorder, dysthymia, and bipolar disorder.
- 3.**Others**: remaining diagnosis.



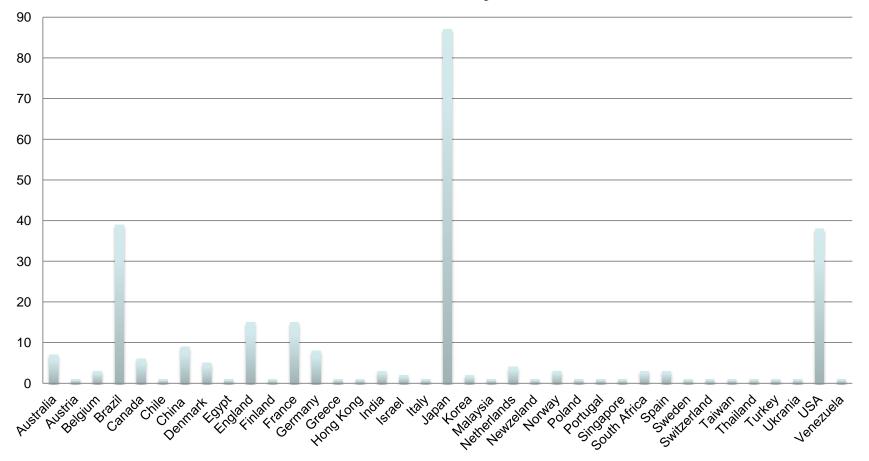




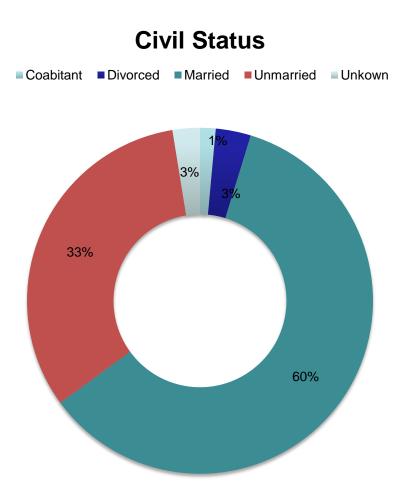
N=273



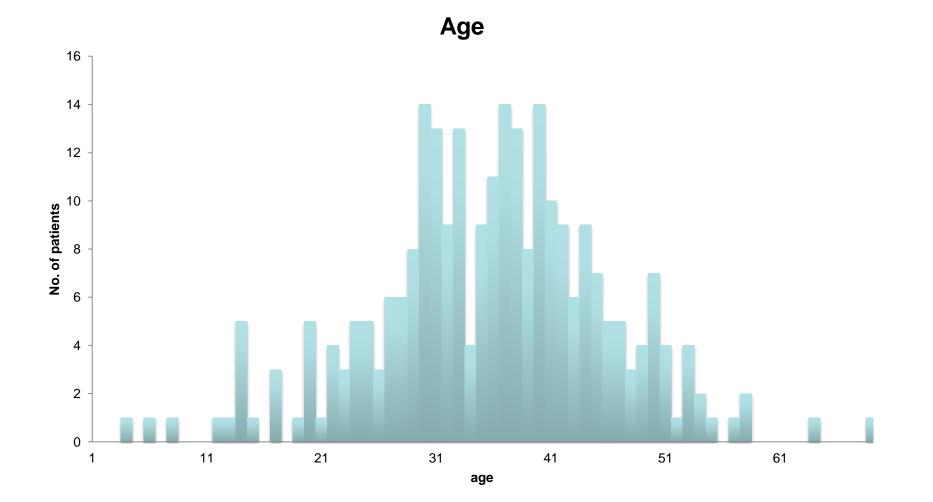
Nationality





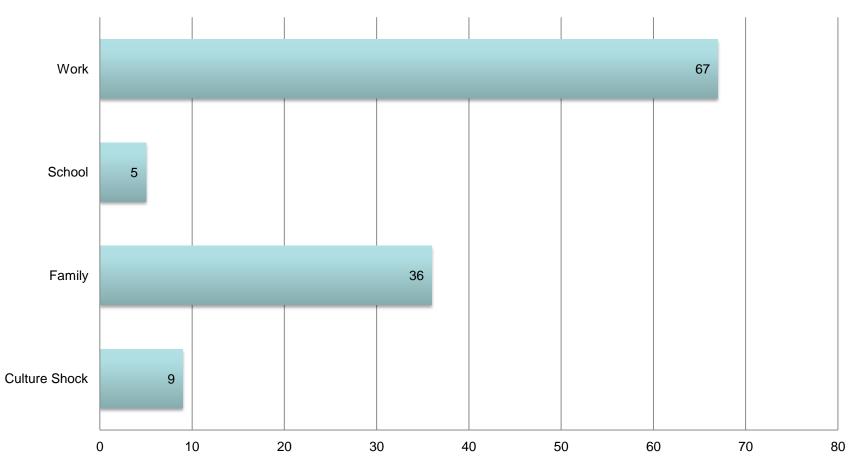




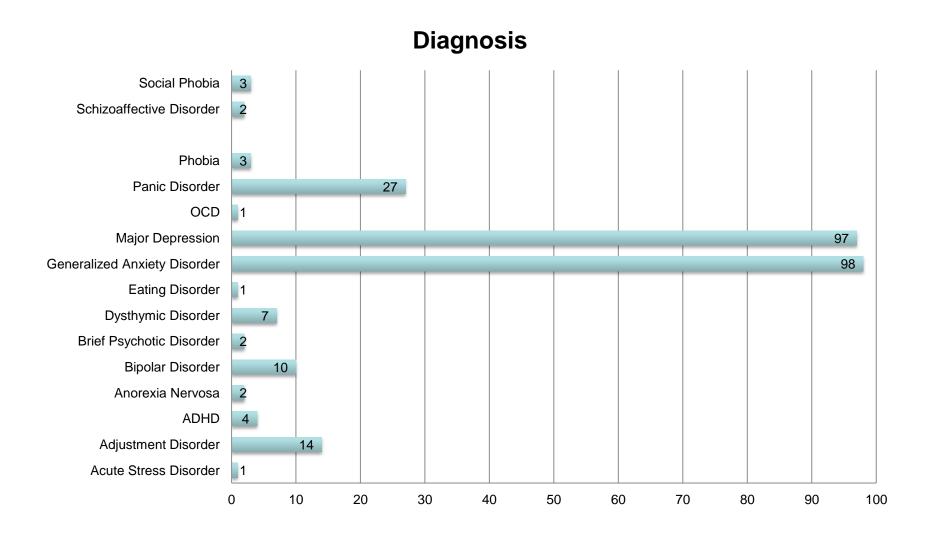




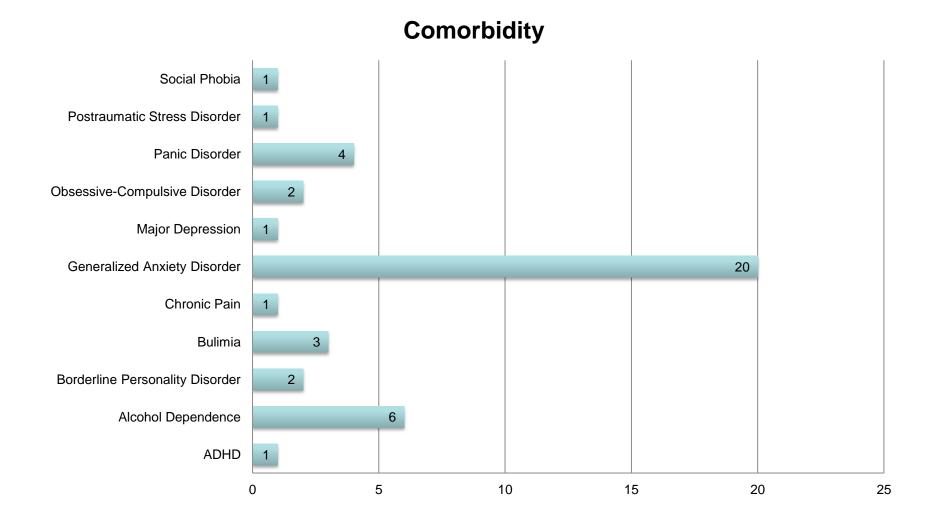
Perceived Cause











Healthcare for Life



| | | ANXIETY | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| | No N=138) | Yes (N=134) | Total N=272) | P value |
| Marital status | | | | |
| Divorced | 7 (77.8%) | 2 (22.2%) | 9 (3.4%) | |
| Married | 75 (44.4%) | 94 (55.6%) | 169 (63.5%) | 0.0062 |
| Unmarried | 55 (62.5%) | 33 (37.5%) | 88 (33.1%) | |

Statistical analysis



| | | Anxiety | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | No (N=138) | Yes (N=134) | Total (N=272) | p value (Chi-Square) |
| Cause:work | | | | |
| No | 114 (55.6%) | 91 (44.4%) | 205 (75.4%) | |
| Yes | 24 (35.8%) | 43 (64.2%) | 67 (24.6%) | 0.00492 |





•This is a sample mainly of young adults (average 35 years old) from 37 different countries.

statistically significant association between Anxiety and work and

married status.

the issues mentioned by the patients



- frequent international travels
- frequent teleconference with other continents and consequent longer and stressful work
- difficult relationship with local employees, different expectations, culture and behavior; pressure for productivity
- speed of life; fast changing market.
- debt, risk of losing job

Conclusion



- statistically significant association between anxiety and work and married status.
- in depth studies and reflection are needed to identify the causative factors related to work in each specific context and corrective measures implemented to prevent mental health disorders.

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