

**OP-12****An audit of the consultation-liaison psychiatric services in a tertiary hospital in Sri Lanka: An interim quarterly report**

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**Introduction:** The Mental Health Unit at Teaching Hospital Jaffna is the largest mental health facility in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, providing all kinds of services from assessments to psychosocial interventions. Being part of a tertiary care hospital, consultation-liaison psychiatry becomes an important element of service provision.

**Objectives:** This study was designed as an audit to describe the sociodemographic characteristics and clinical profile of patients referred to the mental health unit, and the interventions prescribed to them.

**Methods:** This is an ongoing institution-based descriptive cross-sectional study. The preliminary data presented here were collected from March to May 2022. Assessment forms of all consultation liaison patients were included. An electronic data extraction form on Kobo Toolbox was used to extract the data. Data analysis was done using R and R Studio software. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna.

**Results:** During the three-month period, a total of 492 referrals of 203 (41.3%) male and 289 (58.7%) female patients, with a mean age of 35.9 (SD 17.8, range 8-94) years, were received. Most (38.6%) were referred for deliberate self-harm behaviour, followed by depressive disorder (30%), while a considerable proportion (12%) had alcohol or substance related issues. A great majority (94.7%) were new referrals to the Mental Health Unit, while the remaining 5.3% were known to the services. Medications were prescribed to 298 (60.6%) patients, while supportive counselling was offered to 360 (73.2%). Only four (<1%) patients were transferred for inpatient care.

**Conclusions:** The Mental Health Unit of Teaching Hospital Jaffna handles a huge case load related to consultation-liaison psychiatry, in addition to services to new and follow-up patients and medico-legal assessments. Deliberate self-harm behaviour and depression are the leading reasons for referral.

**Keywords:** Liaison psychiatry, Mental health services in Jaffna, Deliberate self-harm, Depression, Supportive counselling