Somatic Comorbidities of Seriously Mentally ill Patients - Evaluation of Patient Data from the Integrated Care Project in Berlin-Brandenburg and Lower Saxony

Summary:

Seriously mentally ill patients often suffer from somatic comorbidities. However, psychiatrists are often not aware of the comorbidities of their patients, even though, for many somatic diseases the risk to suffer from it is higher for psychiatric patients than for healthy individuals. The increased risk arises from the fact that psychiatric disorders and somatic diseases are often mutually dependent. The knowledge about somatic comorbidities is therefore of great significance for the treatment of psychiatric patients.

The aim of our project is the estimation of selected somatic comorbidities of mentally ill persons. Additionally, we investigate the state of knowledge of treating psychiatrists about the comorbidities of their patients.

The analysis of this project is based on data from a previous study which evaluated a model of integrated care of seriously mentally ill patients in Berlin-Brandenburg, Lower Saxony and Bremen. In this study, the treating psychiatrists were asked to document, amongst others, somatic diagnoses of their patients. The calculated prevalences of somatic comorbidities from these data were much lower than data from representative surveys suggest. This gave reason to study the prevalences for selected somatic comorbidities in more detail. In particular, we choose the diseases diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease, hyperlipidaemia, glaucoma, osteoporosis, polyarthritis and COPD. Additional to the documentation of the psychiatrists, health insurance data of the study participants is used in our analysis. Based on priorly defined criteria, diagnoses are derived from ATC- and ICD 10 codes of the patients. In a first step, the prevalences of the mentioned somatic comorbidities are calculated. A secondary analysis comprises the comparison of these prevalences and the documentation of the psychiatrists.