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DIFFERENCES IN HOSPITALS CREATE DIFFERENT MODELS OF FUNCTIONING IN CONSULTATION-LIAISON SERVICE

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The aim of this study is to investigate differences in Consultation-Liaison (C-L) service between two General Hospitals in Greece in order to provide better health services to our patients.

We try to examine referral causes from C-L Psychiatry Unit of an urban General hospital (G.H.) and a local University hospital (U.H.) and find out potential differences.

492 data were gathered (G.H.=96 U.H.=396) within a 6 months period.

Most liaison referrals (n=260, 52,8%) were of Internal Medicine Units. The bulk of referrals were either drug adjustment (n=157 31,9%) or suicide attempts (n=122 24,8%). According to our findings the vast majority were diagnosed of depression (n=67 22,9%) or delirium. 153 patients had Psychiatric history and in 86 of them (56,2%) we were called for help with their drug therapy (rearranging drug doses or preventing side effects with recent medication). 71 patients although were found of no psychiatric problem and cause of referral were management behavioral problems, such as patients negation or irritation.

Both hospitals found out of similar needs in most examined elements. C-L service is the link between psychological process and physical illness. Further research in sociodemographic characteristics and cause of referrals in different kind of Hospitals may enlighten the needs of C-L service in each case.