



## Psychiatry

## INCIDENCE OF DISSOCIATIVE STUPOR AND POSSESSION IN PSYCHIATRY OUTPATIENT

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**ABSTRACT** The present study shows that there is no significant difference in the incidence of Dissociative Stupor and Possession in a psychiatry outpatient population in three consecutive years and its age and gender distribution also remain more or less consistent with a higher incidence rate in females.

## KEYWORDS :

## INTRODUCTION -

Dissociative Disorders are not as rare as are thought to be. Sar et al 2000 reported 12% incidence of Dissociative Disorder in a psychiatric outpatient clinic in Turkey. Sar et al 2007 also reported an incidence as high as 34.9% in emergency psychiatry OPD. Foote et al 2006 turned out with a 29% incidence in inner city hospital based psychiatry OPD. Chaturvedi et al 2009 reported an incidence between 1.5 and 15 per 1000 in an institute in India including both inpatients and out patients. Nandi et al 1992 suggested that hysteria is on the wane in a study in west Bengal villages. However, most of the studies suggest an incidence of 85-100 per 1000 of psychiatry OPD population.

## OBJECTIVE:

To study the incidence of Dissociative Stupor and Possession in a psychiatry population and to analyze the age and gender distribution of the screened subjects. This is a longitudinal research of 15 years of which the data of last three consecutive years are presented and analyzed here.

## METHOD:

All new patients attending psychiatry OPD in MLN Medical College, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and a private psychiatry OPD in a small township of India at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh were screened to identify cases of Dissociative Disorder according to ICD 10, F44.2 and F44.3, from the 1st of January 2016 to 31st of December 2016. These screened cases, only those presenting with fits of unconsciousness and possession, were analyzed and compared with the previous years for the same period.

## RESULTS:

Out of the total 4151 new patients seen in 2016 (2394 males and 1757 females) 333 patients, 8%, fell into the screened group (63 males and 270 females – 1.5% and 6.5% respectively). When compared with the previous 2 years, it was quite similar. In 2015, out of 4814 new patients, 8% again made to the subject group of which 1.6% were males and 6.4% were females. In 2014, again 8% of the total 4544 patients made up the subject group with 1.5% males and 6.5% females.

Analyzing the different age groups, the mean age of the subject group was between 21.0 and 21.9 years during the study period of three years. The mean age for males was between 18.5 and 20.1 years while for females, it was between 22.1 and 22.6 years.

Table 1- Comparison of incidence of subjects

	4151 (2016)	4814(2015)	4544(2014)
MALES	2594	2691	2528
FEMALES	1757	2123	2016
SUBJECTS	8%	8%	8%
M SUBJECTS	63(2.43%)(1.51%)	77(2.86%)(1.6%)	67(2.65%)(1.47%)
F SUBJECTS	270(15.37%)(6.5%)	306(14.41%)(6.36%)	295(14.63%)(6.49%)

Table 2- Age and gender distribution of subjects

AGE GROUP	6-12 years	13-19 years	20-26 years	27-33 years	34-40 years	41+ years
M 2016	16	17	22	1	3	4
F 2016	13	113	62	39	28	15
M 2015	13	24	29	5	4	2
F 2015	7	152	83	9	44	10
M 2014	18	22	16	8	2	1
F 2014	14	101	110	36	22	12

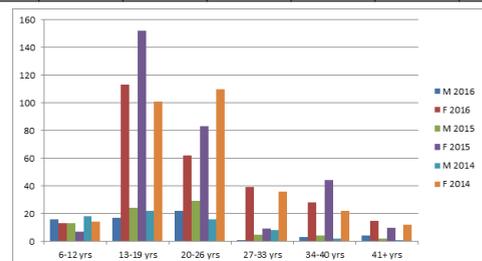


Figure 1- Age and gender distribution of subjects

## DISCUSSION -

The above study, therefore, proves that there is hardly any difference in incidence of dissociative stupor and possession in three consecutive years. This study again proved that females far outnumber males in this category of illness. The most interesting finding of this study was that boys outnumber girls in this category, though modestly, in the age group between 6 and 12 years of age in all the three years. In 2015, the ratio is almost 2:1. The inclusion of all the dissociative disorders and conversion disorders would, therefore, make up quite a sizeable group of patients seen in psychiatry OPD suggesting a huge loss of man hours, not only for the patient but the family members as well. Such a situation cannot be overlooked and is a matter of concern.

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