10. PARTICULARITIES OF INSIGHT AND DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY IN AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR AMONG PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENTS UNDER INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION

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Introduction. Aggressive behaviour in patients with mental disorders represents a significant challenge in psychiatric practice and raises important questions regarding the patient's decision-making capacity and ability to control their actions. In many cases, aggression occurs in the context of severe psychopathology, including psychotic symptoms, impaired reality testing or heightened impulsivity. Assessing decision-making capacity and insight in such situations is essential not only for clinical management but also for medico-legal considerations. Understanding the clinical circumstances in which aggressive behaviour emerges may contribute to improved risk assessment and therapeutic strategies.

Aim of study. The aim of this study was to analyze the particularities of decision-making capacity and insight in patients presenting aggressive behaviour who required involuntary psychiatric hospitalization.

Methods and materials. This observational study included 12 patients admitted involuntarily to a psychiatric inpatient unit due to aggressive behaviour over a six-month period. Data were retrospectively collected from clinical records and psychiatric assessments. The analysis included demographic characteristics, psychiatric diagnosis, type of aggressive behaviour (verbal or physical), psychopathological features at admission and the level of insight and decision-making capacity observed during the psychiatric evaluation.

Results. Aggressive behaviour was most frequently associated with acute psychotic episodes, severe mood disorders and substance-related conditions. In many cases, aggression occurred in the presence of delusional ideas, hallucinations or significant impairment of reality testing. Patients presenting severe psychotic symptoms often demonstrated markedly reduced insight and diminished capacity to evaluate the consequences of their actions. Impulsivity and emotional dysregulation were additional factors contributing to aggressive manifestations.

Conclusions. The assessment of decision-making capacity in patients displaying aggressive behaviour requires a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation that considers the underlying psychopathology and contextual factors. Impaired insight and altered reality perception appear to play a significant role in the emergence of aggression. Recognizing these clinical patterns may improve both patient management and the understanding of medico-legal aspects related to aggressive behavior in psychiatric settings.

Keywords. Psychiatry; aggressive behaviour; insight; decision-making capacity; involuntary hospitalization; psychosis.

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