

alcohol-induced psychoses. For instance, the Northern region experienced an increase in alcohol dependence rates from 79,2 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 99,2 in 2023. Similarly, the prevalence of alcohol-induced psychoses in the Central region rose from 26,4 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 35,2 in 2023. These patterns are consistent with trends observed across Europe, where alcohol consumption is frequently linked to heightened risks of developing mental health disorders, particularly depression and anxiety. Furthermore, alcohol-related psychiatric conditions pose challenges for effective treatment, often requiring integrated care that addresses both substance use and mental health.

Conclusions: The evolving patterns of alcohol use and its associated mental health consequences highlight the need for integrated, non-stigmatizing public health interventions. Prevention strategies that combine public health education, policy reform, and improved access to mental health services can help reduce the burden of alcohol use on individuals and communities. Early intervention and personalized care approaches are essential for mitigating the dual impact of alcohol and mental health issues.

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EPP483

Assessing Knowledge and Confidence in caring for Autistic Patients: An Observational Cross-Sectional Study of Maltese General Practitioners and Psychiatrists

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Introduction: Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting 1 in 36 people worldwide. Approximately one third of autistic individuals report a diagnosed mental health condition. Autistic people constitute 20% of referrals to outpatient psychiatry clinics. Limited knowledge and awareness of autism is the main barrier to receiving appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic support. Autistic individuals' increased mental health needs coupled with greater barriers to accessing healthcare necessitate that both primary care physicians as well as specialised services are well versed in working with these patients.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate knowledge of autism and self-reported confidence in caring for autistic patients amongst psychiatrists and general practitioners (GPs) in Malta. This will facilitate identification of lacunae in doctors' knowledge and advocating for greater training and awareness.

Methods: A online, anonymous questionnaire was distributed amongst psychiatrists and general practitioners in Malta as well as psychiatry and GP trainees. The questionnaire consisted of demographic questions, a 22-item modified Knowledge of Autism Scale as well as a 14-item Self-efficacy Scale targeting confidence in working with autistic patients. Data was analysed using SPSS and scores were adjusted for chance responses. Scores of the psychiatry group and the GP group were compared.

Results: The questionnaire was answered by 98 participants of which 60% (n=59) were female. The mean score on the knowledge of autism scale was 89.2% (SD=7.7) for psychiatry and 83.1% (SD=8.5) for GP. Mann Whitney U test revealed that psychiatrists

fared better than GPs with an effect size of 0.35 (p=0.0003). The mean self-efficacy score was 6.7 (SD=0.4) for psychiatry and 5.7 (SD=0.8) for GP. Independent sample t-test revealed that psychiatrists scored better than GP (p=0.0003, 95% CI [0.509,1.49]). In both groups, there was no significant correlation between knowledge of autism scales and self-efficacy scales (psychiatry p = 0.26; GP p = 0.14).

Conclusions: General practitioners, psychiatrists and their trainees overall have good knowledge about autism, and feel moderately confident in working with autistic patients. As expected, psychiatrists scored better than GPs for both knowledge and self-reported efficacy. The scores obtained are comparable to studies done on a similar population in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, Malta still lacks autism diagnostic services in the public sector. Nonetheless, undergraduate medical education and postgraduate training must strive to prepare doctors for working with this common cohort of patients. This will ensure a high standard of care and avoidance of adverse health outcomes or iatrogenic harm.

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EPP484

Happy in The Homeland? Satisfaction with Life and its Correlation with Flourishing and Affect Balance in Foreign-trained physicians who have Repatriated to Pakistan

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Introduction: International Medical Graduates add up to nearly one-third (23-28%) of the total physician workforce in the US, the UK, Australia, and Canada, of which around 40%-75% are from low-income countries. Pakistan is one of the three leading source countries following India and the Philippines. As per 2002 statistics by the Bureau of Emigration and Foreign Employment, only 10-15% of emigrated Pakistani physicians repatriate. No official data on the exact number of repatriated Pakistani physicians are available. This is the first original study that assessed satisfaction with life in physicians repatriating to a lower-middle-income country.

Objectives: To assess satisfaction with life (SWL) and its correlation with psychological well-being in foreign-trained, repatriated Pakistani physicians.

Methods: We conducted this cross-sectional study from April'22 to Nov'23, through purposive sampling among foreign-trained Pakistani physicians who repatriated at least three months before participating. We used the Scale of Positive and Negative Emotions (SPANE), Flourishing Scale, and Satisfaction with Life (SWL) scale. After transforming data to normality in SPSS 25 through the Distribution Fraction method, the independent sample t-test, and one-way ANOVA were applied. We assessed the correlation between affect balance, flourishing, and SWL through Pearson's correlation and ascertained the predictors of SWL through binary logistic regression ($\alpha=0.05$).