

---

**PROFILE OF SUICIDAL ATTEMPTERS IN PSYCHIATRIC CLINICAL POPULATION IN TUNISIA**

---

N. Charfi<sup>1</sup>, N. Ghorbel<sup>1</sup>, J. Ben Thabet<sup>1</sup>, S. Ellouze<sup>1</sup>, N. Zouari<sup>1</sup>, L. Zouari<sup>1</sup>, M. Ma,lej<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Psychiatry "C" department, Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia

---

**Introduction:** In Tunisia, the number of suicide attempts (SA) leading to a psychiatric follow-up seems to increase.

**Objectives:** To describe the clinical and environmental profile of suicidal patients addressed to the outpatient psychiatry department.

**Methods:** It was a retrospective and descriptive study. Data were collected from the files of 29 suicidal attempters referred in 2012 to the outpatient psychiatry department at the Hedi Chaker University Hospital of Sfax in Tunisia, after one or more SA.

**Results:** SA accounted for 2.4 % of new patients referred to the outpatient unit during the year 2012. The sex ratio (M / F) was 0.7 and the mean age was 28.8 years. They were single in 51.7% of cases. Their school level didn't exceed the primary education in 62% of cases and they didn't have any occupation in 51.7% of cases. Some relational problems, especially family ones were identified in 69% of cases and the quality of family and / or social support was considered poor in 41.4% of cases. The SA was reactional in 24.1% of the cases; 34.5% of suicidal attempters presented a personality disorder and 17,2% presented a major depressive episode.

**Conclusion:** A young single person with no profession, a limited educational attainment and low social support, such is the profile most frequently encountered among suicidal attempters. The presence of underlying mental disorders and socio-familial dysfunction seems to be important risk factors for suicide and should be considered in the prevention of recurrence.