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Epidemiology of Suicide in the elderly

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Background: burning suicide is the most violent method to terminate the life. Self-immolation may be due to mental disorders, family disputes, financial. Sometimes self-immolation is to get attention, but it often leads to death. Elderly self-immolation is the saddest event. The present study was undertaken to investigate the elderly self-immolation.

Methods: A retrospective study (1387to1392) was done with the, medical records of patients older than 60years from the burn centers of Tehran. Data were analyzed using SPSS 16.

Resultsandconclusions:72.3% of victims were men. The mean age was 70.704 ± 8.59) and at the range age of 60 to80 years. The burn percent was between 10 and 90 percent and half of them had resulted to death. Duration of stay was 1 day to 25daysandthe most cause of burn were Petroleumandacid.18 cases ofself-immolationand3caseswere reported from the fire.

Conclusion: Self-immolation of the elderly is due to pain, pressure and severe symptoms and other immolation is worst kind of abuse. It should be considered the important mental health problem in community. It is necessary to respect the elder in country and don't impose the family to meet their needs. Therefore, a comprehensive organizations involvement is necessary to help elder in peace and respectful manner.

Key words: Elderly, Suicide, Family.