Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS028

Practical application of VR in crisis-support training

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Abstract: Psychological First Aid is (thankfully) not something most people use daily – yet it's crucial for responders to be trained, confident and fully prepared for unexpected emergencies. So how can we ensure this readiness? The answer is AI avatars in virtual reality! At VirtualSpeech, in partnership with Region Västra Götaland, we've developed AI roleplay simulations that enable crisis and emergency teams to not only practice their psychological support skills but also receive personalized feedback on their performance and tips for improvement.

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WS029

Open questions in ethics of virtual training

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Abstract: In recent years, developments in Generative artificial intelligence (genAI) have opened new possibilities for continuous education that were recently only science fiction. However, genAI introduces several ethical considerations and ethical issues continue to appear. These include privacy, ownership, accuracy, bias, psychological impact, and environmental impact. In this workshop we will consider where these ethical issues might specifically intersect with the development and implementation of genAI in training professional conversational skills in the context of professional mental health support. Understanding these ethical issues is important for ensuring positive and sustainable impact on society and individual health. As a part of this workshop, we consider theoretical issues, but we will also look at methods to ensure the development of ethical and trustworthy genAI systems, including transparency and human-in-the-loop methods, along with quality and risk management systems. Moreover, when considering worker health, it is will be important that future work empowers workers to continue to develop in their field, without introducing additional harms such as accessibility problems or exposure to harmful imagery or interactions.

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WS030

Current situation in Europe : different prospective

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Abstract: Introduction. Previous evidence showed significant discrepancies in psychiatric services utilization between migrants and reference populations in Europe. An important barrier for migrants to Europe is the lack of adequate legal entitlements. Sometimes these barriers are mistakenly attributed to cultural differences and misunderstandings because the term 'culture' may be used as a putative politically correct expression reifying social differences and neglecting discrimination. Our study aims were to evaluate incidence and characteristics of psychiatric hospitalizations of migrant patients compared with reference populations and to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic affected admissions. Methods. All patients admitted to the psychiatric ward "SPDC-Malpighi" of the Bologna Mental Health Department, Italy, from 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020 were included. Differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics were tested by migrant status. Incidence rate ratios of hospital admissions by migrant status were estimated via Poisson regression considering population-at-risk, gender, and age-group. Results. Migrants had higher hospitalization rates due to any psychiatric disorder (IRR=1.16). The risk was especially pronounced among women (IRR=1.25) and within the youngest age-group (IRR=3.24). Young migrants had also a greater risk of compulsory admission (IRR=3.77). Regarding admissions due to a specific diagnosis, we found relevant differences in hospitalization rates for psychosis, mood disorders, and personality disorders. Finally, migrants were more likely to be admitted via the Emergency Department and less likely to be referred from a specialist. Discussion. During the year of pandemic (2020) we observed an increase in the proportion of migrants admitted voluntarily or compulsorily. Migrants, especially those from the youngest age-group, had higher hospitalization rates for any disorder. Younger migrants were also at higher risk of compulsory treatment. The distribution of psychiatric admissions during the pandemic period seemed to have further increased discrepancies in mental healthcare needs and provision between migrants and the reference population. Tailored interventions and policies are urgently needed to address this issue. Keywords Psychiatric admissions · Migrants · Pandemic · Compulsory treatments References: Tarricone I, D'Andrea G, Galatolo M, Carloni AL, Descovich C, Muratori R; Bo-East Psychiatric Admissions Study Group. Psychiatric Admission Among Migrants Before and During Pandemic: a Retrospective Study in Acute Psychiatric Ward in Bologna, Italy. J Immigr Minor Health. 2023 Jun;25(3):507-521. doi: 10.1007/s10903-023-01464-7. Epub 2023 Mar 23. PMID: 36952152; PMCID: PMC10034892.

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