

Characteristics of Suicide Attempts in Patients with Schizophrenia Hospitalized at Ar-Razi Hospital in Salé, Morocco

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Abstract

Original Research Article

Understanding the circumstances surrounding suicidal behaviors in patients with schizophrenia is crucial for their prevention. Our study aims to analyze the characteristics of suicide attempts in schizophrenic patients at Ar-RAZI Hospital in Salé. It is This is a descriptive, analytical and retrospective study involving a sample of 430 patients. We observed that the most frequently mentioned motives are psychotic symptoms, with impaired judgment present in 83.5% of cases and delusions in 68.1% of cases. The most used suicide methods are precipitation (37%) and hanging (14%). In addition, we noted that 54.2% of patients had previous suicidal thoughts and that 60.8% were not alone when attempting suicide. Suicidal intentionality was high in 35.4% of cases and medium in 33.1% of cases. Our results are consistent with existing literature, although some variations may be explained by sample-specific characteristics. It is therefore essential to adopt a multidisciplinary approach for the prevention and management of suicidal behaviors.

Keywords: Suicide Attempt - Characteristics of TS - Circumstances of TS - Schizophrenia - Suicide Risk.

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I- INTRODUCTION

Understanding suicidal behavior is a complex task that requires a multidimensional approach. Researchers, mental health professionals, and policy makers are working to better understand the underlying causes, risk factors, and preventive interventions to reduce the incidence of suicide.

In Morocco, one of the main difficulties encountered by researchers in their quest for comprehensive and multidisciplinary care lies in the lack of scientific and epidemiological data available on this phenomenon.

- Its global prevalence is estimated at around 1% (1).
- The suicide rate among patients with schizophrenia is 15 to 20 times higher than in the general population (1).
- It represents one of the main causes of premature death in these patients,
- It is therefore essential to identify all the contributing factors, whether clinical or epidemiological, which predict the risk of committing suicide, in order to better prevent it.

Objective of the Study:

Our Work Aims To:

- To determine and describe the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of patients suffering from schizophrenia who attempted suicide and were hospitalized at Ar Razi hospital.
- To study the relationship between the different characteristics of TS.
- Establish a correlation between the different parameters and the suicide risk.

II - MATERIALS AND METHODS

- This is a retrospective analytical descriptive study conducted within the Ar-RAZI hospital center in Salé. The duration of the study is 5 years;
- A total of 431 patients were included.
- We included in our study:

Hospitalized patients with schizophrenia who have attempted suicide.

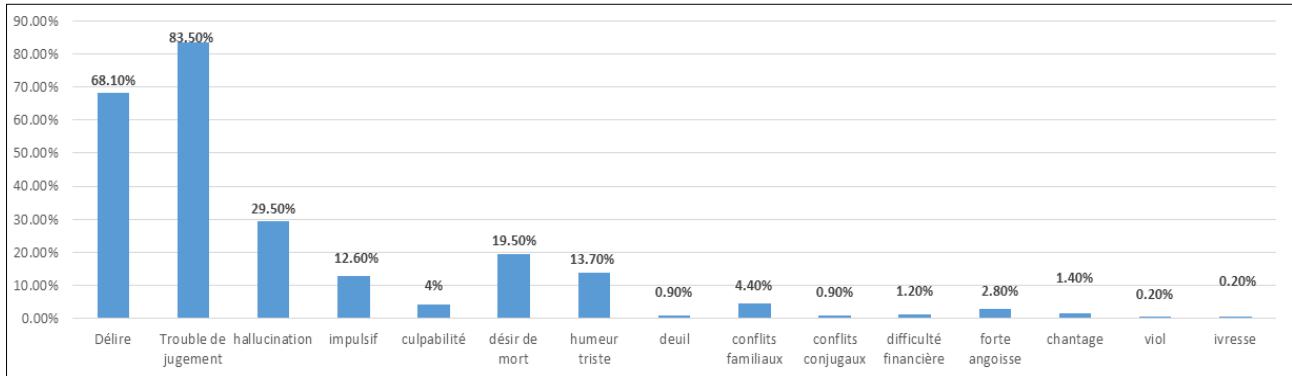
- The following were excluded from our study:
 - Patients with confusional syndrome
 - Or seriously disorganized or unstable
 - Patients who have experienced superficial self-mutilation.

- Clinical and sociodemographic data were entered on a pre-established operating sheet, then collected from medical records.
- Data entry and analysis were done using Microsoft Excel software.
- The descriptive and analytical results were made with SPSS software.

III - RESULTS

1. Reason Given

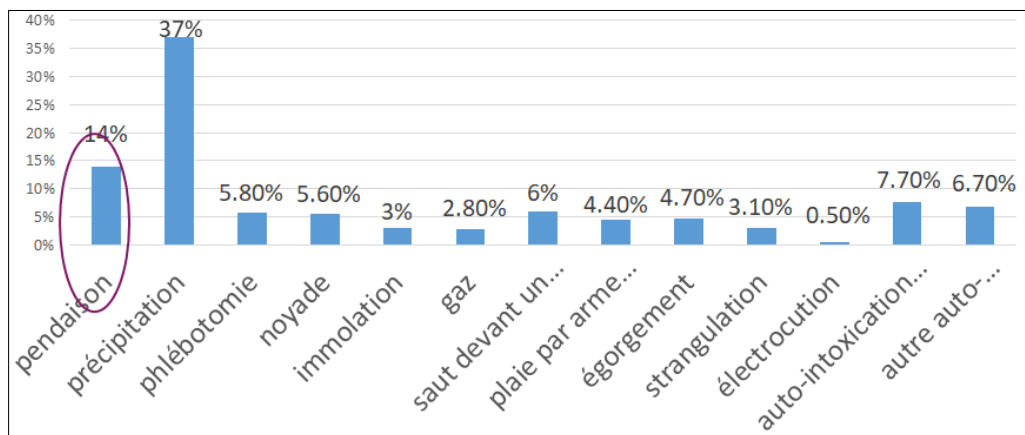
Distribution of Patients According to the Reason Given



The most commonly cited reasons were psychotic symptoms dominated by impaired judgment and delirium.

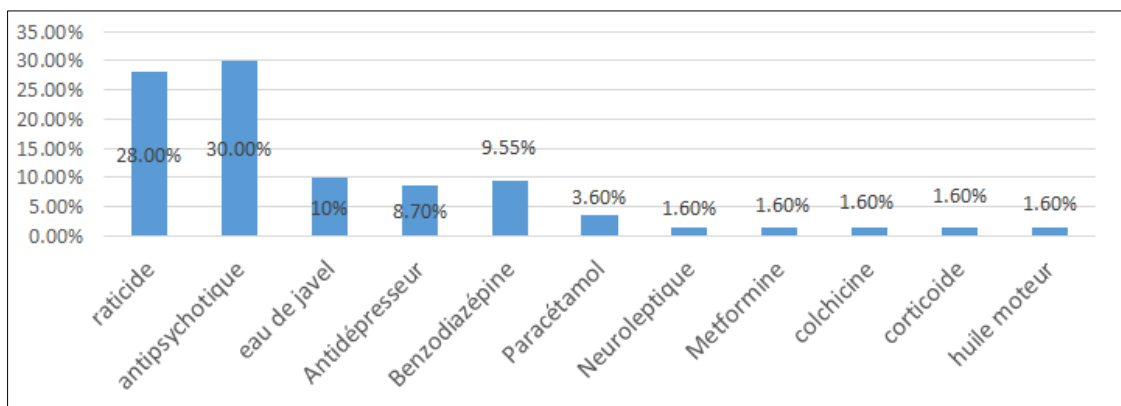
2. Means used

Distribution of Patients According to the Method used



The two most used methods were respectively precipitation 37%, and hanging 14%.

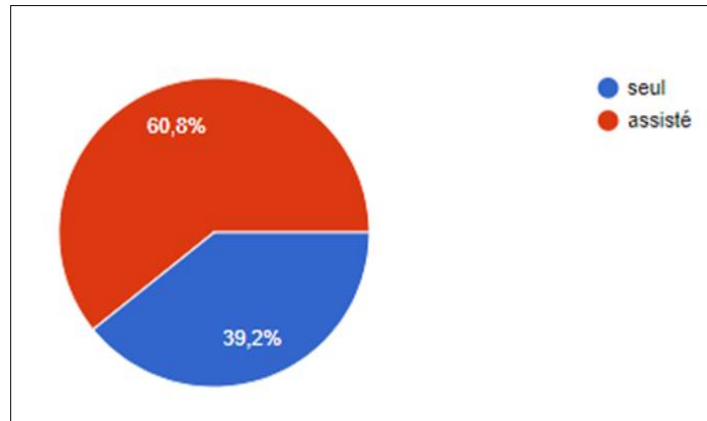
Distribution of Patients According to the Means Used



It is worth noting that the substances most used by patients in self-poisoning were antipsychotics in 30% and rat poison in 28% of cases.

3. Circumstance of the TS

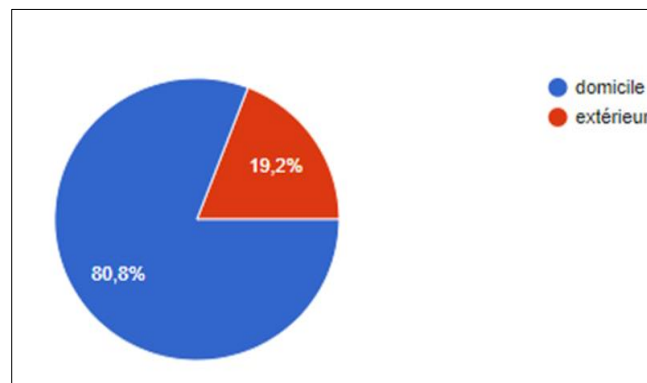
Distribution of Patients According to the Circumstances of TS



60.8% of patients had committed the suicidal act in the presence of a person.

4. Location of the TS

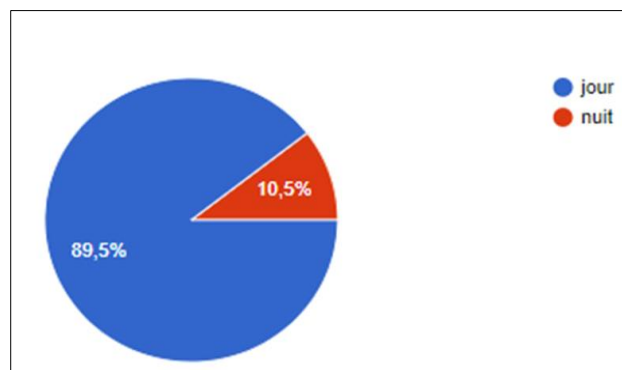
Distribution of Patients According to the Location of the TS



80.8% of TS were performed at home.

5. Time

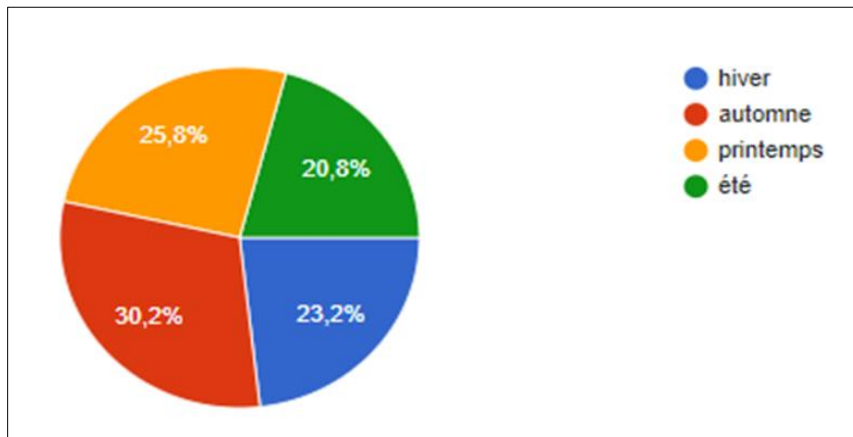
Distribution of patients according to time of TS



89.5% of TS were performed during the day

6- TS Season

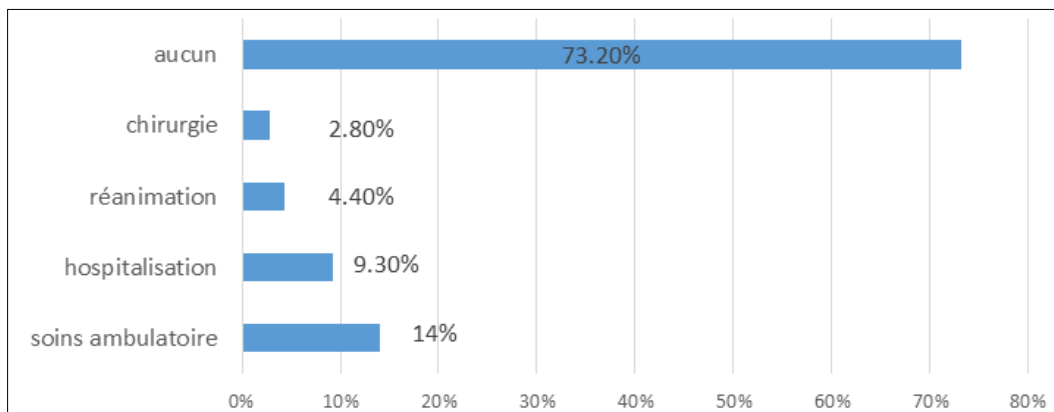
Distribution of Patients According to the TS season



30.2% of TS was carried out during the fall

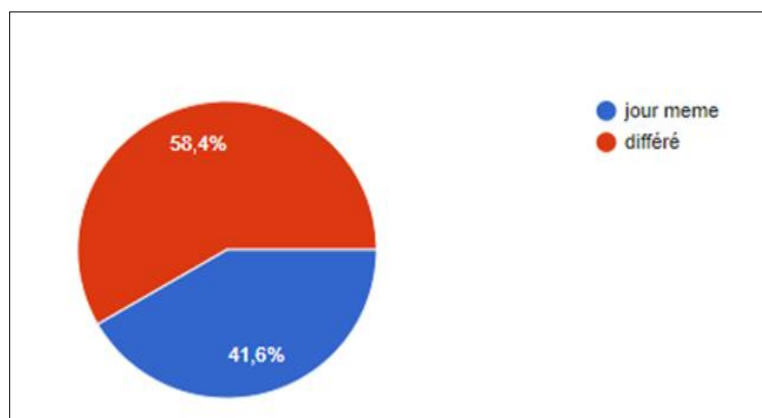
7. Admission And Medical Care

Distribution of Patients According to Medical care Following TS



In 73% of cases no treatment was necessary.

Distribution of Patients According to the Day of Admission to the Psychiatric Department



41.6% of patients were admitted the same day to a psychiatric department for treatment

8. Experience of the TS

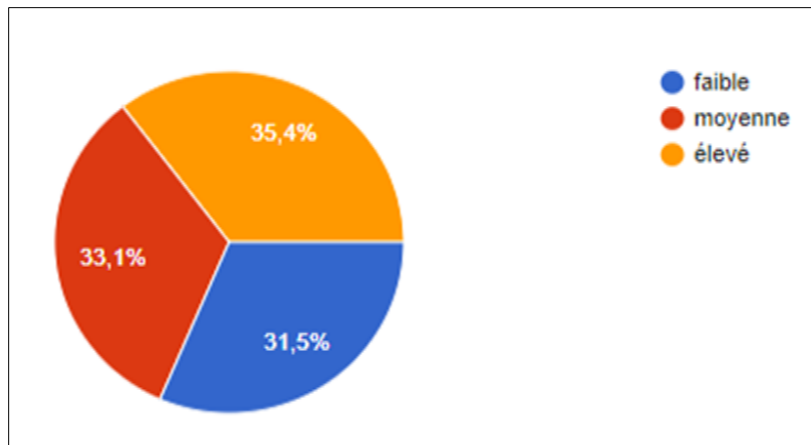
Distribution of Patients According to the Experience of TS

Criteria	Percentage
Regret after TS	52.4%
Idea to redo another TS	23.7%

52.4% of patients had a feeling of regret after the suicidal act, while 23.7% of cases had verbalized their intention to do another suicide attempt.

9. Suicidal Intentionality According to the Beck Scale:

Distribution of Patients According to Suicidal Intention



35.4% of patients had high suicidal intentionality

10. Other Characteristics of TS

Distribution of Patients According to other Characteristics of TS

Features	Percentage
Suicidal ideation before the suicidal act	54.2%
TS failed before current TS	30%
Disclosure of suicidal intent	52%
Ask for help from those around you	16.1%

The majority of patients had not sought help before their suicide attempt.

- Suicidal ideation before the act was present in 54.2% of cases.
- Disclosure of suicidal intent in 52% of cases

- 30% of patients had performed a failed TS during the week preceding the current TS

II- DISCUSSION

We will compare our results with data from the literature.

1. Reason Given:

	Study by Harkavy-Friedman <i>et al.</i> , (2)	Study by Aguilar <i>et al.</i> , (3)	Our study
Psychotic symptoms	35%	48%	≈ 70%
Depressive symptoms	50%	36%	19.5%
Socio-family difficulties	20%	5%	6.5%

In our study, the motives for suicide were largely dominated by positive psychotic symptoms, essentially delirium-hallucinations representing 70% of cases, this percentage was only 48% in the study of

Aguilar [3], whereas in the study of Harkavy-Friedman [2], it was rather depressive symptoms which were dominant.

2-Means Used

	Study by Harkavy-Friedman <i>et al.</i> , (2)	Study by Kreyenbuhl <i>et al.</i> , (4)	Our study
Hanging	6%	7%	14%
Precipitation	8%	40%	37%
Drug poisoning	42%	27%	7.7%
bladed weapon	18%	7%	9%

In the literature, it is noted that individuals with schizophrenia tend to opt for more violent and lethal methods, sometimes unusual compared to the general

population or even depressed people such as rushing or hanging. Which is the case in our work

3 - Other Features

Features	Our study	Consistent results	Controversial results
Circumstances of the TS	Presence of a third person (60.8%) Disclosure (52%)	Altamura AC (5)	Kreyenbuhl JA (6)
TS Season	Slight predominance during autumn 30.2%.	Kim (7), Parker G (8)., Clarke M (9), Daniels BA (10)	Maes M (11), Morken G (12)
Suicidal intentionality according to the Beck scale	high intentionality 35%	Harkavy-Friedman JM, De Hert M Kreyenbuhl JA (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)	-----

60.8% of patients had carried out the suicidal act in the presence of a third person. This result was different from the results of the study conducted by Kreyenbuhl JA [6] , 52% of our patients disclosed their suicidal intention which is consistent with the study of Altamura [5].

fall. This result is consistent with several previous studies.

- In our series, the season was not identified as a risk factor, with slight predominance during the

- In our series, 35.4% of patients had a high suicidal intentionality, which is consistent with the literature

Table I: Comparison of TS circumstances between the two sexes

TS Features	Workforce (N=430)	Women	Man	P
Circumstance				
Alone	39.2%	52 (30.6%)	118 (54.54%)	0.948
Assisted	60.8%	80 (30.9%)	179 (69.11%)	
PLACE				
Residence	80.8%	103 (29.8%)	243 (70.2%)	0.359
Outside	19.2%	29 (34.9%)	54 (65.1%)	
HOUR				
Day	89.5%	117 (30.55%)	266 (69.45%)	0.702
Night	10.5%	15 (33.33%)	30 (66.67%)	
Saisn				
SUMMER	20.8%	30 (34%)	58 (66%)	0.702
SPRING	25.8%	37 (33.64%)	73 (66.4%)	
Autumn	30.2%	37 (28.7%)	92 (71.3%)	
Winter	23.2%	28 (28.28%)	71 (71.72%)	
Ask for help				
Yes	16.1%	101 (28.13%)	258 (71.87%)	0.006
No	83.9%	31 (45%)	38 (55%)	
Ideation before				
YES	54.2%	67 (30.6%)	152 (69.4%)	0.936
NO	45.8%	65 (31%)	145 (69%)	
Admission				
Same day	41.6%	63 (35.2%)	116 (64.8%)	0.093
Deferred	58.4%	69 (27.6%)	181 (72.4%)	

V - CONCLUSION

- The doctor, in partnership with various stakeholders, plays an essential role in identifying the risk factors associated with suicide attempts and in detecting individuals likely to commit suicide. This makes it possible to offer appropriate and rapid therapeutic care to these people.
- Characterizing the clinical profiles of suicidal people and identifying risk factors are essential for developing appropriate care strategies.
- Future research should focus on developing innovative approaches to reduce the risk of suicide in this vulnerable population, thereby promoting an improvement in the quality of life of people with schizophrenia.

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