

**School of Nursing**

**Course Code : BSCN 3003**

**Course Name: Mental Health Nursing**

# PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCIES

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY

**Name of the Faculty: Nancy Thakur**

**Program Name: B.Sc. Nursing**

## EMERGENCY

- An **emergency** is defined as an unforeseen combination of circumstances which calls for an immediate action.
- A **medical emergency** is defined as a medical condition which endangers life and/or causes great suffering to the individual.

## Introduction



Common manifestations of psychiatric conditions often encountered in routine prehospital care

## Definition

- **A psychiatric emergency** is an acute disturbance of behaviour, thought or mood of a patient which if untreated may lead to harm, either to the individual or others in the environment.

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY





## Suicide

- Commonest emergency
- Intentional human act of killing one-self
- Suicidal Behaviour is a life threatening medical emergency.

## Types Of Suicide

- Suicide : intentional self induced death
- Suicide attempt: Intentional act causing physical self harm, where death would have occurred without direct intervention.
- Suicide gesture: Intentional act suggesting a cry for help, causing self harm or intent to cause self harm that would not cause death.

## Etiology

### 1. Psychiatric disorder

- ❖ Major depression
- ❖ Schizophrenia
- ❖ Drug or alcohol abuse
- ❖ Dementia
- ❖ Delirium
- ❖ Personality disorder

- **2. Physical disorders:**
- 
- cancer
- AIDS

GALGOTIAS  
UNIVERSITY



## 3. Psychosocial disorders:

- ❖ Failure in examination
- ❖ Dowry harassment
- ❖ Marital problems
- ❖ Loss of loved object
- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Financial problems
- ❖ Occupational problems



## Management

- Discontinue the drug
- For significant short-term ingestions, gastric content should be removed by induction of emesis and gastric lavage
- If possible instruct the patient to ingest fluids

## Management

- Be supportive, reassuring and non-judgemental
- Physical examination for any injuries
- Give morning after pill to prevent possible pregnancy
- Explain the relatives regarding the possibilities of post traumatic stress disorder, sexual problems like vaginismus which may appear later

## Bibliography

- Sreevani. R, a guide to mental health and psychiatric nursing, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- Townsend Merry C, psychiatric mental health nursing 7<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Gail Stuart W, principles of psychiatric nursing 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
- [www. Medline.com](http://www.Medline.com).