Course Code: BSCN 3003 Course Name: Mental Health Nursing



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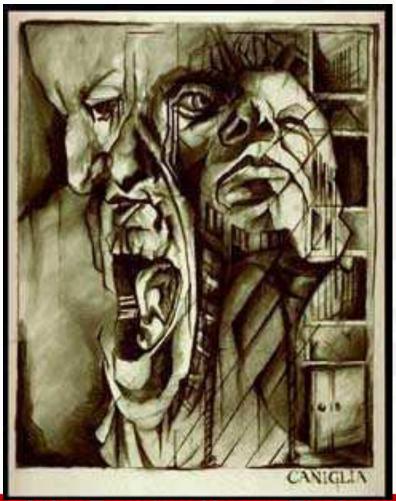
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#### **EMERGENCY**

- 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.

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### Introduction



Common manifestations of psychiatric conditions often encountered in routine prehospital care

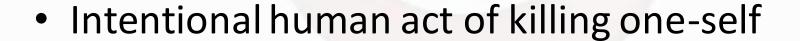
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### Definition

• 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.

#### Suicide

Commonest emergency



Suicidal Behaviour is a life threatening medical emergency.



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### Types Of Suicide

- Suicide: intentional self induced death
- <u>Suicide attempt</u>: Intentional act causing physical self harm, where death would have occurred without direct intervention.
- <u>Suicide gesture</u>: 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

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- 2. Physical disorders:
- cancer

AIDS

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### 3. Psychosocial disorders:

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



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### 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

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### 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**

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