

agonists, amantadine can be used. Other approaches such as correction of vitamin deficiencies and remdesivir can also play a role.

**Conclusions:** Delirium remains frequently unrecognized. In the pandemic context of COVID-19 it is important to consider this infection as a cause of delirium and mind the misdiagnosis as a psychiatric condition. One should look for atypical features and be more thoughtful about the psychopharmacological approach.

**Keywords:** delirium; Psychopharmacology; COVID-19; neurological disorders

### EPP0341

#### Reduced activity in a liaison psychiatry service during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic: Comparison with 2019 data and characterisation of the SARS-CoV-2 positive cohort

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**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic led to changes in how healthcare was accessed and delivered. It was suggested that COVID-19 will lead to an increased delirium burden in its acute phase, with variable effect on mental health in the longer term. Despite this, there are limited data on the direct effects of the pandemic on psychiatric care.

**Objectives:** 1) describe the mental health presentations of a diverse acute inpatient population, 2) compare findings with the same period in 2019, 3) characterise the SARS-CoV-2 positive cohort of patients.

**Methods:** We present a descriptive summary of the referrals to a UK psychiatric liaison department during the exponential phase of the pandemic, and compare this to the same period in 2019.

**Results:** show a 40.3% reduction in the number of referrals in 2020, with an increase in the proportion of referrals for delirium and psychosis. One third (28%) of referred patients tested positive for COVID-19 during their admission, with 39.7% of these presenting with delirium as a consequence of their COVID-19 illness. Our data indicate decreased clinical activity for our service during the pandemic's peak. There was a marked increase in delirium, though in no other psychiatric presentations.

**Conclusions:** In preparation for further exponential rises in COVID-19 cases, we would expect seamless integration of liaison psychiatry teams in general hospital wards to optimise delirium management in patients with COVID-19. Further consideration should be given to adequate staffing of community and crisis mental health teams to safely manage the potentially increasing number of people reluctant to visit the emergency department.

**Keywords:** liaison psychiatry; Covid; pandemic

### EPP0342

#### The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on paramedics' mental health in Greece.

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**Introduction:** Converging evidence substantiates a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of frontline workers. Nonetheless, there is paucity of research on paramedics.

**Objectives:** To estimate the prevalence of stress, anxiety and depression in frontline paramedics in the Athens region, Greece, and to investigate the coping skills that are associated with less favourable mental health outcomes

**Methods:** A total of 100 ambulance paramedics participated in the study. The online questionnaire encompassed the DASS-21 for assessing mental health outcomes and the Brief-COPE for measuring coping skills. Information about socio-demographic characteristics and personal/relatives' vulnerability to COVID-19 was also gleaned.

**Results:** The prevalence for moderate to severe cases was found to be 7.2% for stress, 9.4% for anxiety and 11.3% for depression. Multiple linear regression analysis indicated that men demonstrated significantly higher stress [B = -2.28, 95%CI = -3.88 - -0.68] and depression compared to women [B = -1.69, 95%CI = -3.19 - -0.19]. Similarly, the use of denial was found to be associated with higher stress [B = 0.69, 95%CI = 0.11 - 1.37] and anxiety [B = 0.55, 95%CI = 0.13 - 0.98]. Moreover, emotional support was linked to heightened anxiety [B = 0.71, 95%CI = 0.36 - 1.06] and self-distraction to depression [B = 0.60, 95%CI = 0.16 - 1.04]. Personal or relatives' vulnerability to COVID-19 did not impinge on mental health outcomes.

**Conclusions:** Healthcare initiatives should be tailored at the mental health needs of frontline paramedics, especially men. Psychosocial interventions should target maladaptive coping, especially the use of denial.

**Keywords:** coronavirus; frontline workers; common mental disorders; coping skills

### EPP0343

#### Children's mental health hospital throughout COVID-19

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