Teaser

TITLE: Suicide in children and adolescents

SPEAKER: Dr. Paramala J. Santosh, Dip NB (Psych), MD, PhD, FRCPsych,
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Suicide and suicide attempts by children and adolescents are a major public health problem, since topical research and surveys have clearly highlighted suicide as one of the commonest causes of death among young people.

Although suicide in childhood and early adolescence is rare, risk of onset of suicidal ideation increases rapidly during adolescence and young adulthood, which then stabilizes in early midlife. The incidence of suicide attempts reaches a peak during the mid-adolescent years, and at that age mortality from suicide, which increases steadily through the teen years, is the third leading cause of death.

Dr. Paramala J. Santosh from the Maudsley Hospital in London, UK, will outline the risk factors for suicide in children and adolescents, ranging from genetic vulnerability and psychosocial factors to medication-related factors as well as the effects of media and congestion, with the internet having an important contemporary role. Apart from showing the well-established relationship between mental disorders and adolescent suicide, Dr. Santosh will point to the urgent need of broad prevention strategies in healthcare and social services in order to decrease the significant loss of life caused by suicidal behaviour in youth. In particular, he will present the EU-funded Suicidality: Treatment Occurring in Paediatrics (STOP) project, which was developed by a consortium of child mental health specialists across Europe. This project is being piloted in children and adolescents to identify whether patient reported measures can pick up suicidal ideation and behaviour allowing for alert systems to be set up and to warn clinicians about increased suicidal risk, resulting in early intervention.

For further information please come to the panel discussion!

We hope you will join in to celebrate the 25th ECNP anniversary and we look forward to welcoming you to Vienna!

Sonja Mak
Press Office 25th ECNP Congress

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