

Community psychiatry and treatment of mental illness in the community

Abstract of presentation by M. Nordentoft, Prof.

Assertive outreach services were developed in order to increase adherence to treatment and to ease the lives of people with severe mental illnesses living in the community by providing or facilitating help with everyday life issues. Assertive outreach and specialized early intervention services are modern treatment principles tailored to meet the needs of people with psychotic disorders by actively engaging them and their families in treatment programs. However, both in first episode and later on, it should be considered how to include interventions to facilitate rehabilitation. There is increasing evidence of positive effects of cognitive remediation through errorless training of cognitive functions or identifying techniques to overcome cognitive difficulties. Many patients with psychotic disorders have no affiliation with the labor market, but some have a strong wish to work. There is some evidence for the positive effects of the program Individual Placement and Support compared to prevocational training. Most of the literature stems from US and it is uncertain whether the same benefits can be achieved in welfare countries. Finally, a long range of studies show that morbidity and mortality is increased compared to the general population, and this indicate that prevention and treatment to improve the physical health of patients with schizophrenia is highly needed