

 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Increased number of applications for late termination of pregnancy in Denmark

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INTRODUCTION

Last year, it was 40 years since the introduction of legal abortion until the 12th week of gestation and the possibility of late termination of pregnancy in Denmark. The aim of this study was to describe the development in applications for late termination of pregnancy in the 1986-2011-period focusing on indications related to the women's conditions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All applications for late termination of pregnancy in 1986 were reviewed by Nordentoft et al, and access to all applications from 2011 was granted by the abortion committees and the Appeals Board. All applications were reviewed in order to explore the development since 1986.

RESULTS

The total number of applications for late termination of pregnancy has increased by 45% from 1986 to 2011 with 594 and 862 applications, respectively. Despite this increase, the number of permissions granted with reference to the women's conditions has decreased. In 1986 and 2011, 488 and 382 women, respectively, applied for late termination of pregnancy with reference to the women's conditions. Of the 519 women who were granted permission in 1986, 31% were \leq 20 years of age. In 2011 this age group represented only 12%.

CONCLUSION

Significant changes in the women's age and the reasons they provide when applying for late termination of pregnancy have been observed from 1986 to 2011. Further investigation of this subject will contribute to securing the best possible conditions for women going through late termination of pregnancy.

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 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Screening instruments for anxiety and depression in patients with irritable bowel syndrome are ambiguous

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INTRODUCTION

Psychiatric disorders are common among patients with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) which may make a psychiatric evaluation appropriate. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) has been recommended internationally for screening. The Common Mental Disorder Questionnaire (CMDQ) is a novel Danish instrument recommended for use in general practice, but it lacks validation. The objective of this study was to test the reliability and the convergent validity of the anxiety and depression subscales of the CMDQ and the HADS in patients with IBS

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 149 patients with IBS completed the CMDQ and the HADS twice in a year. Data were analysed with respect to internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha), agreement on case identification (κ) and correlation between scores (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient).

RESULTS

All subscales showed satisfactory internal consistency. Cases identified by the CMDQ's anxiety and depression subscales differed considerably from those identified with the HADS with only fair-moderate agreement, while the correlation between the scores on the CMDQ and the HADS was only moderate for both anxiety and depression.

CONCLUSION

The subscales for anxiety disorder and depression on the CMDQ showed internal consistency, but only fair to moderate agreement and correlation, which yielded an unsatisfying convergent validity compared to the HADS. More studies in different populations and research on the cut-off values for possible cases could make the CMDQ more useful.

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