

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF VICTOR BABEȘ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY DOCTORAL SCHOOL AND ROMANIAN ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, DECEMBER 2016, TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

THE ARSONISTS PORTRAIT- AS SEEN BY FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION

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Key words: arsonist, fire setting, forensic psychiatry, mental state.

arsonist and suggestions were included in order to ensure further "profiling" information gathering.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of our study is to determine the mental state of the arsonists that have undergone forensic psychiatric evaluation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We have examined the mental health records between years 2014-2015. Only subjects who committed fire setting crimes and were referred to the Legal Medicine Institute from Timișoara for a psychiatric evaluation were selected for the study. We analysed the following data: socio-demographic parameters, psychiatric diagnosis, motivation for the perpetrated crime, alcohol and drug addiction, the applied safety measure, the administrated neuroleptic and complementary treatment and the social support network.

RESULTS

The portrait of the arsonist is mainly male, young, single, poorly educated, unskilled and unemployed, living mostly in rural areas and with alcohol or drugs addiction at the time of committing the fire setting. Regarding the mental state of the patient, the most common diagnoses among the subjects were: psychoses, toxic substance delusional disorder, mixed personality disorder and intellectual disabilities. In most cases, arsonists lost discernment at the time of committing the criminal act and they were not held accountable for it.

CONCLUSIONS

Our study established the most common psychiatric disturbances of arsonists as seen by forensic psychiatric examination. Different reasons for setting up fire have also been discussed. Patients were both delusional and irritated. We attempted to sketch a "portrait" of the

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