Mortality, suicidality and deliberate self-harm in people with functional dissociative seizures: Systematic review, age-, region-, and sex-based meta-analyses

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Introduction

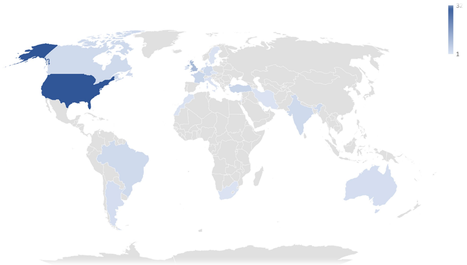
- Functional dissociative seizures (FS) resemble epileptic seizures (ES), thus without concomitant cerebral epileptic activity.
- They are associated with high psychological distress and might coexist with epileptic seizures.
- People with seizure disorders have higher morbidity and mortality rates.
- Several studies reported higher suicidal rates and self-harm in people with FS.

Aim

Assess the pooled rates and prevalence of mortality, suicidality, and deliberate self-harmful behaviour in people with FS, and compare relevant biogeographical groups.

Method

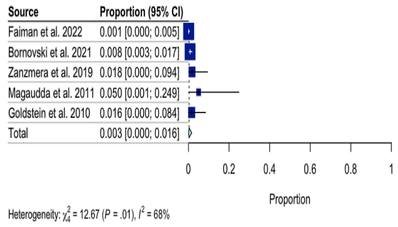
- Systematic review in 12 databases, with no restrictions.
- We included 80 articles with 12,119 FS cases.
- 65 articles with data on 9,650 FS cases were eligible for meta-analysis.



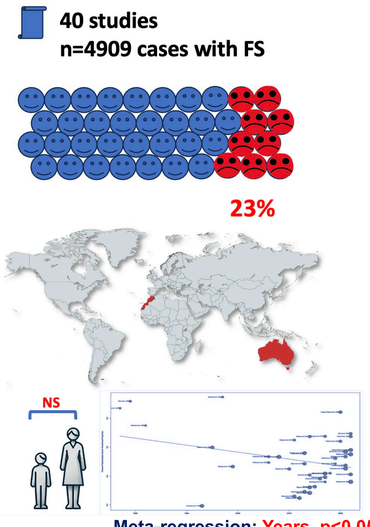
Results

Mortality

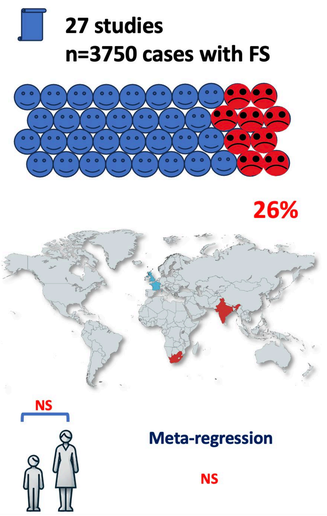
- Pooled SMR = 2.91 (2.22-3.82)
- Pooled HR = 4.01 (2.38-6.74)
- Pooled suicide-related death:



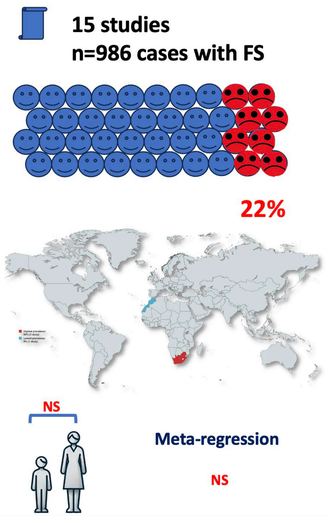
Suicide attempts



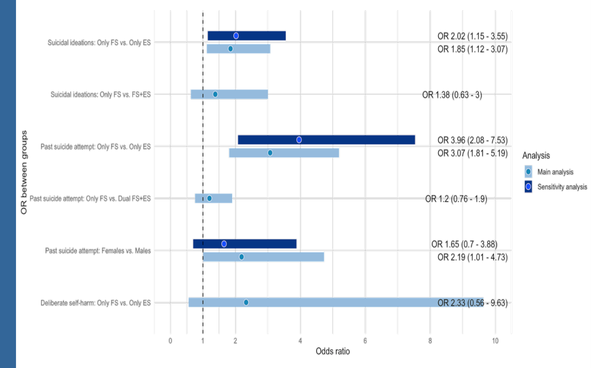
Suicidal thoughts



Deliberate self-harm



Group comparison



Conclusion

- Around one-quarter of people with FS disclosed past suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts, and/or deliberate self-harmful behaviour.
- Importance of psychological support and suicide prevention programs.
- More studies are needed in Low- and Middle-income countries.

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References

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