

## QUALITY OF LIFE IN PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS SYMPOSIUM

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Quality of life is a broad term that refers to the total well-being of the individual in terms of physical, psychological, emotional, mental and social well-being, which is influenced by many factors including age, gender, socioeconomic status, behavioral risk factors, environment in which the individual is living and the absence or presence of the disease. The term should not be confused with the concept of standard of living, which is based primarily on income. Instead, standard indicators of the quality of life include not only wealth and employment, but also the built environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging.

Within the field of healthcare, quality of life is also often regarded in terms of how it is negatively affected, on an indi-

vidual level, by disease. However, it can also reflect the quality of treatment or other forms of care, and this is especially true of the field of mental health services. More specifically, evaluation of patients' quality of life can potentially serve as a source of feedback to guide steps towards improvement of care. Quality of life assessments are increasingly present in mental health research. The results of these studies indicate the importance of interventions (medical, social, psychological, legal) for the quality of life in the group of mental health service users.

Key words: Quality of life, psychiatric treatment, psychiatric care