Title: Forensic patients who lowered their risk for violence. Who are they?

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Learning Objectives: * Patients who lowered their risk for violence is a valuable source of information when finding the protective factors for violence * To learn more about risk management in patients admitted to forensic psychiatric care.

In recent years there has been an increasing focus on violence risk management where emphasis is on violence prevention, rather than the prediction of violence. In order to improve risk management strategies a better understanding of the risk factors involved is desire. This study aims to identify patients that have lowered their risk for violence with more than 20%, and describe who they are.

The risk assessment instrument HCR-20 was used to assess the risk for violence in 267 patients in a Swedish forensic psychiatric clinic. The assessment was done repeatedly every six month. The patients individual results on their first assessment, done close to admission, where compared with the latest assessment done in order to identify those patients who had lowered their risk with more than 20% over their admission time. The median time between the first and the latest assessment was 36, 2 month (range 24,5-62,3).

46 patients had lowered their risk with more than 20% on the total score of the clinical (C) scale where all items showed a significant decrease. The group consisted of 15 (33%) female and 31 (67%) male patients with a mean age at admission of 33 (sd=11.5) years. 31 (67%) had substance use problems. The primary diagnoses were psychosis (63%, n=29), personality disorder (24%, n=11) and other diagnoses (11%, n=5). Those who lowered their risk for violence over time will contribute important knowledge that, hopefully, will lead us forward in the effort to improve risk management for violence.