

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 90166

Title: Deliberate self-harm among pediatric psychiatric inpatients in China: A single-center retrospective study

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05906528

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-25

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-19 10:06

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-27 00:54

Review time: 7 Days and 14 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this retrospective study, the authors focused on prevalence, types and factors associated with intentional self-injurious behaviors, known as non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) in western studies, in child and adolescent patients that received inpatient psychiatric hospital treatment in a tertiary psychiatric facility located in China. The prevalence of deliberate self-harming behaviors in the sample was noted to be low (16.9%) when compared to prevalence rates in western populations. The authors explained this by stating that the rates of deliberate self-harm are likely expected to be higher in outpatient populations. The authors should consider adding a reference to a study comparing the self-harming rates in inpatient versus outpatient populations to shed more light on this. Certain findings of the study are consistent with other published large-scale studies such as strong co-relation of intentional self-harming behaviors with female gender, associated depressive disorder and parental marital status. Though anxiety disorders were not considered as a separate factor in this study, several studies have shown robust co-relation between them and intentional self-harming behaviors. Interestingly in this retrospective study, a strong link between deliberate self-harming

behaviors and family history of psychiatric illness or past history of abuse was not found. The authors attempted to explain the possible under-reporting of positive family history of psychiatric illness by mentioning cultural influences such as Chinese societal norm is to look down upon psychiatric illnesses therefore people do not openly acknowledge that. However, the other reason given to explain this was that people with family history of psychiatric illness will be more vigilant in identifying psychiatric illness in young members of their family which would prevent intentional self-harming behaviors in them. This explanation does not seem to have a solid scientific or cultural basis and appears to be a simple observation of the authors. Adding a reference for an established study implying this recommended. Similarly, lack of evidence suggesting a strong link between self-harming behaviors and past history of abuse is alarming. Several studies have established that history of child maltreatment is associated with increased risk for deliberate self-harm and suicide attempts. (Miller AB, et al. The relation between child maltreatment and adolescent suicidal behavior: a systematic review and critical examination of the literature. Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev. 2013;16(2):146-172.) Is it possible that history of abuse was also under-reported due to cultural reasons or other factors? This should be addressed in the discussion. Authors mentioned personality traits or disorders playing a role in increased risk for deliberate self-harm. Certain personality traits/disorders are also associated with child maltreatment. Expanding on the role personality disorders will be helpful. Authors mentioned 'bad habits' such as smoking, alcohol use, substance dependence and gambling as a factor that did not influence deliberate self-harming behaviors in children and adolescent populations. The use of non-scientific term bad habits/behaviors lowers the standard of this scientific publication. Who decides good or bad? This seems to be in line with cultural standards of the Chinese population but may be a different phrase such as substance use may be more appropriate. The authors gave 3 explanations for this. Use of references of studies

will be helpful. As the authors rightfully state, child and adolescent self-harm has become a public health problem in Asia and the world, this retrospective study highlights the associated factors but fails to direct the readers towards any concrete measures that can be taken to address this global issue. Education of parents and teachers is a decent point but more work is needed in the conclusions section discussing the possible interventions.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Cong Lin

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Reviewer performed review: 2024-02-05 23:19

Review time: 12 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have incorporated the recommended suggestions in the manuscript.