

Abstract

Burn injury is one of the most serious traumatic events with possible psychological and psychosocial consequences. This paper deals with a topic not yet explored in Czech Republic - (especially) psychological factors affecting the response to trauma in order to identify patients with worse response, who require more attention of experts. The theoretical part of the paper describes burn injury as an extremely stressful event and presents factors that co-determine the individual's response to the trauma. It also describes the most common mental problems observed in people with burns. The theoretical part serves as a basis for the empirical part of the paper which presents our own research of exploratory character. The aim of the research was to identify the factors related to depression, anxiety and patient's perception of health, in a research sample of 52 adult patients shortly before hospital discharge. Minority of patients in our sample reported moderate and severe depression and anxiety symptoms. Health perception of most patients corresponded to average values in normal population while depression was found as its predictor and it also correlated with the personality traits neuroticism, introversion and conscientiousness. We found the predictors of depression to be the personality traits neuroticism and introversion. Anxiety was related to attachment-related anxiety, neuroticism, and agreeableness. From sociodemographic and clinical parameters, employment seemed to be the most important – unemployed and retired patients experienced higher levels of depression, anxiety, and neuroticism.