SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SUICIDE POSTVENTION

Dr Peter Herriot
Senior Visiting Medical Specialist, Pain Management Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA

The 2013 beyondblue National Mental Health Survey of Doctors and Medical Students found that doctors reported substantially higher rates of psychological distress and attempted suicide compared to both the Australian population and other Australian professionals. One commentator has suggested the medical profession must confront its “dark side” to prevent physician suicide. The above survey and recent opinion pieces will be discussed in an endeavour to stimulate discussion about possible risk factors within the medical profession. The epidemiology of suicide as well as suicide prevention will be discussed and the concept of postvention will be introduced and considered. There are qualitative differences in grief themes in those bereaved by suicide and these differences will be outlined.

References