

Evaluation of heart transplant candidates using the Spanish version of the Stanford Integrated Psychosocial Assessment for Transplantation (SIPAT)

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Background

The standardized evaluation of the psychosocial factors in candidates for transplant is relevant given that these can affect the outcomes. While the assessment of the medical factors influencing outcomes are well standardized, there has not been a similar strategy established for the psychosocial elements.

Given the importance of the latter, the Stanford group developed a standardized assessment, the SIPAT (Maldonado, 2012) that was validated into Spanish in 2019 (López-Lazcano, 2019). The main objective of this study is to present the clinical-epidemiological characteristics of a Spanish population of heart transplant candidates that were evaluated in the Cardiology Service of the Hospital Clínico of Barcelona (HCB).

Methods

A review of clinical data and an interview including the SIPAT, in heart transplant candidates was performed from January 2019 to December 2022.

Then the data was entered into a database and a descriptive and comparative analysis were done.

The data collection for this study was made in agreement with the Hospital Clínico of Barcelona's code of ethics.

Results

Fifty five patients met the inclusion criteria. The demographics characteristics are shown in Table 1.

The SIPAT categories score, according to risk group are show in Table 2.

The clinical features are shown in Table 3.

There were not any significant statistical differences between the SIPAT categories in relation to the civil status, ethnicity, gender, study levels or number of Emergency and Medical admissions.

Table 1

Variable		
Age	M	(SD)
	53.5	(13.7)
Gender	N	(%)
Female	17	(30.9)
Male	38	(69.1)
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	52	(94.5)
Others	3	(5.5)
Civil status		
Single	14	(25.5)
Married	33	(60)
Divorced	8	(14.5)
Educational level		
Primary	4	(7.3)
Secondary	35	(63.6)
Higher	16	(29.1)
Occupational status		
Active at work	22	(40)
Retired	33	(60)

n= frequency, %= percentages *M*=mean, *SD*= standard deviation

Table 2

Total SIPAT score			
		M	(SD)
		11.75	(7.9)
SIPAT categories score			
		N	(%)
Excellent	< 7	19	(34.5)
Good	≥ 7 or ≤ 20	30	(54.5)
Acceptable	> 20	6	(10.9)

n= frequency, %= percentages *M*=mean, *SD*= standard deviation

Table 3

Variable		
Medical illness	M	(SD)
No	17	(30,9)
Diabetes	17	(30,9)
Hypothyroidism	5	(9,1)
Nephrological	5	(9,1)
Others *	11	(20)
History of mental illness		
No	38	(69,1)
Depressive disorder	5	(9,1)
Anxiety disorder	7	(12,7)
Substance abuse	5	(9,1)

n= frequency, %= percentages *M*=mean, *SD*= standard deviation
* liver, immune or respiratory disease

Conclusion

The mean SIPAT score found was similar to the mean SIPAT scores of different international series, which range from 12.90 to 20.89. Up to a third of the sample was categorized as "excellent candidate" according to the SIPAT score, mildly higher than the range between 5.5% and 24.8% seen in the literature. The rate of psychiatric history found in our sample (30.9%) is higher than the 24% described in the international literature when heart transplantation candidates are considered (Takano, 2023). Sociodemographic features and medical admissions were not related with SIPAT score.

The Spanish version of SIPAT seems to be a reliable tool to evaluate psychosocial features in heart transplant candidates.

REFERENCES

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