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INTEGRATING PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE AND CARDIOLOGY IN EUROPE

Abstract

The attention to psychological factors in somatic diseases is growing, and the European Network for Psychosomatic Medicine ENPM offers ample opportunities for exchange of such knowledge and experiences.

The role of stress and stressful experiences in Coronary Heart Disease is one area in need of continued discussion and exchange.

It has been suggested that up to one third of the etiologic fraction of an acute coronary event can be attributed to psychosocial stress.

To examine psychosocial factors on a large scale, however, short, convenient and accurate measures are needed.

In the European Cardiology Society's Guidelines for CVD Prevention in Clinical Practice a set of expert derived core questions were presented and now being evaluated.

They address stress in the family and at work, social support and social isolation, low socio-economic status and social disadvantage and negative affect, including depression and hostility.

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