

GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

REFUGEES AND VICTIMS OF TORTURE THE APPROACH OF THE SAN GALLICANO DERMATOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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Introduction: Since 2001, the San Gallicano Dermatological Institute Service has provided psychological and dermatological assistance as well as anthropological counselling to asylum seekers, refugees and victims of torture in order to rehabilitate them

Objectives: the study aims at describing the *modus operandi* adopted by the team as well as its activities in the framework of the San Gallicano Hospital.

Materials and Methods: A trans-disciplinary approach has been adopted in order to take care of the people received by using a holistic approach. The service relies on the presence of psychologists, anthropologists, transcultural mediators, general practitioners as well as specialists, in particular dermatologists and gynecologists. It should be outlined that some of these professionals experienced, in their turn, repression, torture and exile.

Results: Between January 2016 and December 2017, the San Gallicano Institute, received 834 refugees coming from 53 different countries. During this period, 2,805 dermatological examinations, 1,683 psychodiagnostic exams, 1,122 anthropological interviews aimed at collecting traumatic memories were performed. The activity carried out by the staff of the Hospital led to the issuing of 561 certificates, which are part of the dossier that the asylum seeker submits to the commission or the court at the moment of the examination of his/her asylum request. The process aims at re-building the wholeness of the person, which was violated by the tortures undergone.

Conclusions: Taking care of asylum seekers, victims of torture and refugees by adopting a holistic and transdisciplinary approach, starting from skin lesions also as a mirror of internal diseases, allows to culturally decode their suffering. The proposed approach provides a key to give a first answer to the not yet crystallized situation lived by who suffered trauma, allowing to follow a rehabilitation path and to restore the dignity and the wellbeing of the

ABSTRACT BOOK

ABSTRACTS



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