

Suicide Risk Factors

It is important for the provider to assess a patient who may be at risk for suicide. Suicide risk factors are plenty and accurate assessment of each of them could lead to prevention of an attempt. Any patient who has risk factors for suicide should be fully assessed for suicide risk.



PLAY PICMONIC

Depression

Depressed-emo

Low serotonin levels are associated with depression. Patients who are depressed are more likely to commit suicide.

Previous Attempt

Previous Jump

Research identifies that the risk of suicide is highest the first year after a suicide attempt.

No Support System

No Supportive-friends to catch

The lack of a social support system can lead to isolation. Other factors including unemployment, loss of family friends, or status can lead to suicidal feelings.

Access to Firearms or Medications

Access to Guns and Med-bottles

When there is easy availability of firearms or medications, such as tranquilizers or drug and alcohol abuse, there is a higher incidence of suicide.

Substance Abuse

Substance Abuser

Previous or current use of addictive substances places patients at increased risk of suicide. Alcohol, medications, and illegal drugs are substances that place patients at increased risk.

Physical or Sexual Abuse

Physically Abused by Sex-symbols

Physical or sexual abuse increases the patient's risk of suicide. They may have an overwhelming sense of hopelessness.

Chronic Illness or Pain

Crone with Illness and Pain-bolt

Patients with chronic illness or chronic pain, such as cancer have an increased risk of suicide. These patients often feel as if they are ending their own suffering.

Extremes of Age

Old-man and Young-teen

Adolescents and persons over the age of 50 are at a higher risk of suicide.