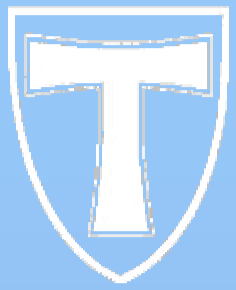
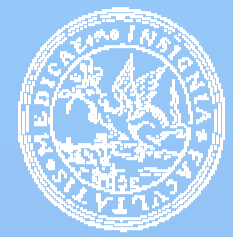


Pilot-project "ITC-Giessen": Evaluation of a highly-individual, patient-focused treatment



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Introduction The model 'Integrated Therapeutic Centre' (ITC) offers a novel, highly individualized, patient-focused treatment including *all* settings of psychiatric hospital and community treatment (Fig.1). Thus it allows stable and long-term therapeutic relationships. The centre's location in an ordinary dwelling-house in a regular residential area lowers the threshold to admission in early states of illness and reduces stigmatization. The model can be implemented easily in every hospital by reduction of 'clinical' inpatient beds or wards.

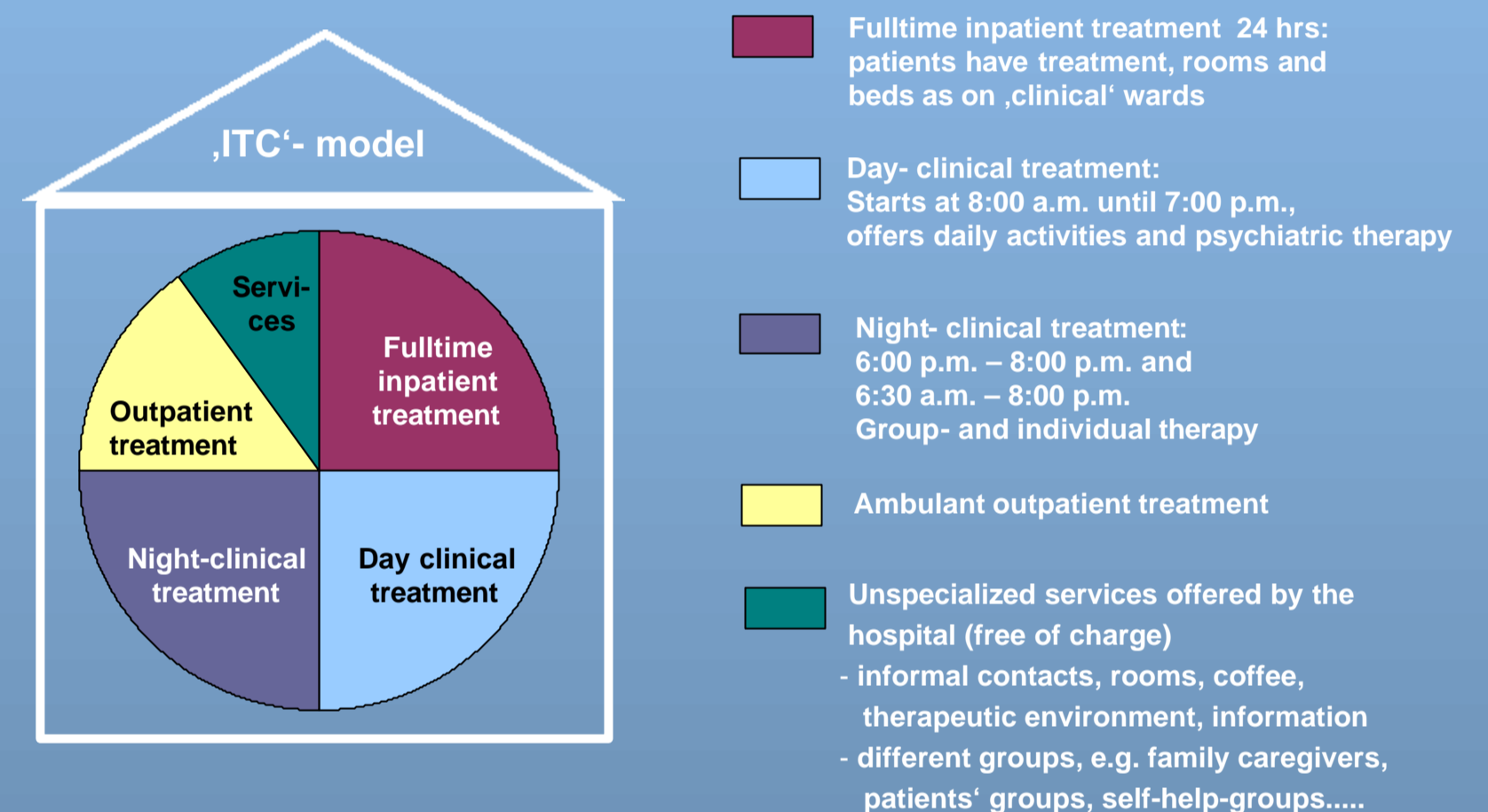
Objective This is the first analysis of the ITC's taking part in the regional compulsory treatment of psychiatric patients. The following retrospective data analysis (performance data: structural, process, outcome) was carried out for 2002 and 2003 to analyze the results of the treatment of mentally ill patients in the Giessen catchment area. A prospective evaluation is planned to test the hypotheses that the ITC shows better performance data compared to standard psychiatric treatment while treatment costs either remain constant or decrease, respectively.



Outside view of the ITC in Giessen



Fig. 1. Treatment and care provided by an 'ITC'-model



Evaluation The psychiatric documentary system (BaDo) was used as the data pool for the retrospective data analysis. To assess treatment outcome three psychiatric rating scales were applied: GAF, CGI and DAS. The GAF is a 100-point tool rating overall psychological, social and occupational functioning (100 = no symptoms 1= persistent danger of severely hurting self or others). The Clinical Global Impression Scale (CGI) is used to assess treatment response in psychiatric patients. The severity of illness is rated on a seven-point scale (1=normal to 7=extremely ill). The Disability Assessment scale is a 6-point tool rating social dysfunctioning, lower scores indicating better functioning.

Outcome Patients of the ITC were on average 30 years old, main diagnoses were schizophrenic (36%), depressive (25%) and personality disorders (17%) (Fig.2). Scores of CGI, GAF and DAS showed significant improvements after treatment (Fig.3), rehospitalization rates were low. The ITC provided highly frequent contacts to out-patients, performed by the physician (over 500 per year) as well as by the nurses (over 1300 per year). In a comparative quality-insurance-study the present model of the 'ITC' achieved the highest satisfaction of patients and staff.

Fig. 2. Main diagnoses of patients of the ITC

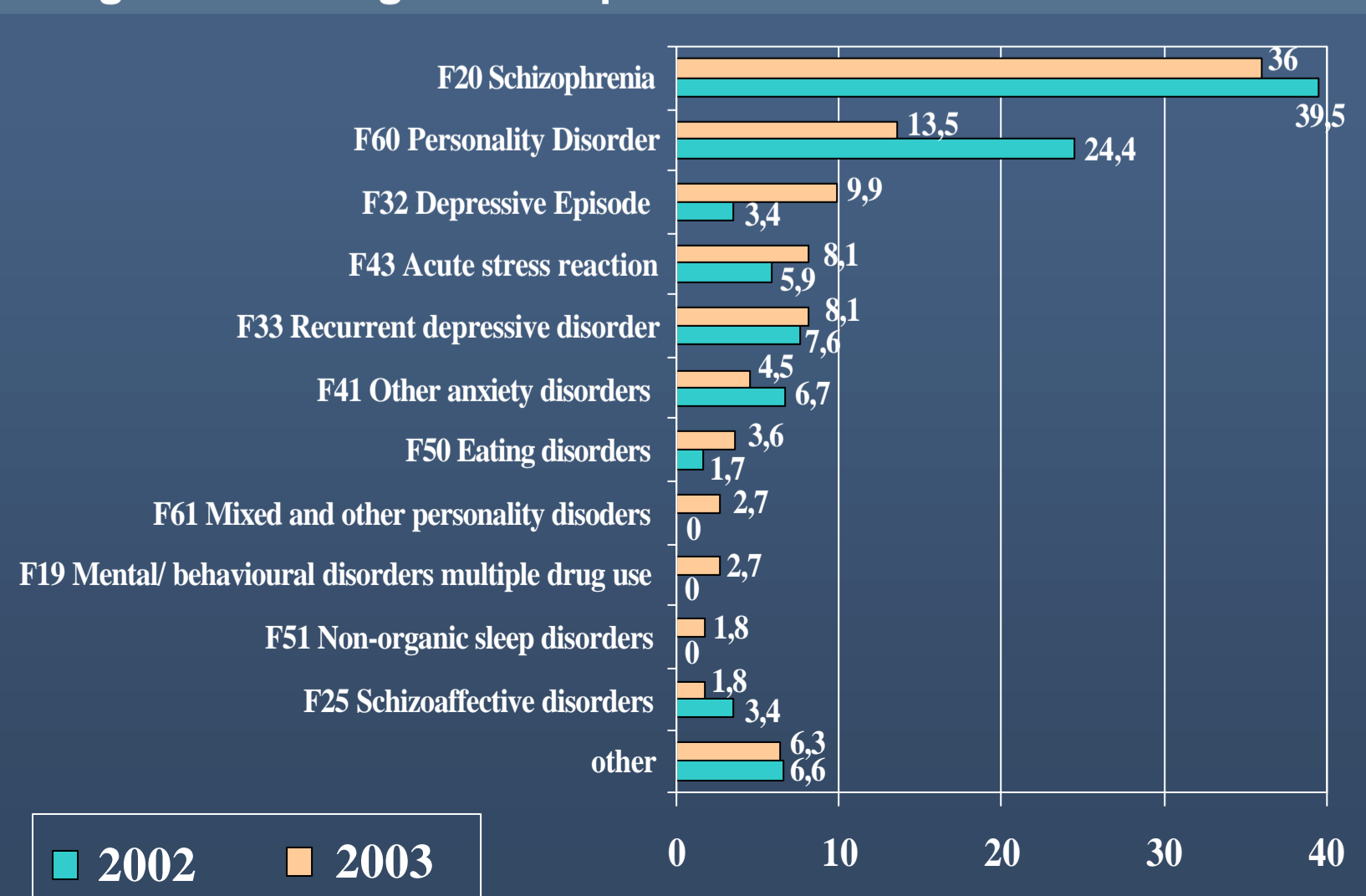


Fig. 3. Changes of GAF, CGI and DAS after treatment

