

Editorial

SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE IN A SAMPLE OF EGYPTIAN ADOLESCENTS

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Introduction:

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are among the most prevalent psychiatric disorders in young people. SUDs cause much distress for youths, their families, and society (Cheng and Myers, 2005).

SUDs were the second most commonly diagnosed psychiatric disorders in youths evaluated in community settings. Second only to the disruptive behavior disorders category, it is estimated that over 5 million youths, by age 16, have met the diagnostic criteria for an SUD (Cheng and Myers, 2005).

There is a higher rate of co-morbidity in adolescents with substance use disorder. Specifically, mood and disruptive disorders have been found to be higher in adolescents with substance use disorder than in adolescents without. When compared to adult samples, rates of current co-morbidity of substance use disorder in adolescents with psychiatric disorders are the same as those in adults, except for disruptive/antisocial personality disorders (Simkin, 2005).

Stress has long been recognized as one of the most powerful triggers for drug abuse, craving, relapse and self-medication with drugs or alcohol to relax and cope with stress (Williams, 2002).

Aim of the work:

1. Investigating the types of psychiatric symptoms and psychosocial variables that coexist with drug dependence in adolescents.
2. Assessing the impact of co-morbidity on the severity of substance dependence in adolescents.
3. Assessing the effect of stress and the type of coping style of the patients.

Subjects and method:

The sample consists of 80 males aged 12-19 years and was divided into two groups: 1-Group (A): substance dependence patients according to the ICD-10 criteria (n=40). Patients are chosen sequentially from the inpatient admitted in El-Khanka general psychiatric hospital and The Nile Sanatoriums private psychiatric hospital from the first of February 2003 till the first of February 2004 and they were diagnosed according to the ICD-10 criteria. 2-Group (B): Control subjects from the same age group with no history of substance use or any psychiatric disorders (n=40).

Both groups were subjected to the following assessment procedures:

- Psychiatric case history:
- Life events stresses (Shokeer, 1996).
- Coping Processes Scale (Ibrahim, 1994).

The patients in group (A) will be subjected to the following:

- ICD-10 symptom checklist for mental disorder (Janca et al., 1994).
 - Addiction severity Index (Maclellan et al., 1980).
- Results of this study were divided into three parts concerning with comparing the socio-demographic data of both groups, the clinical profile of group A, Psychometric profile in both groups.

I- As regards socio-demographic data

- A. Both groups have the same mean age and they were single.
- B. As regard education higher percentage reached the secondary and university of control group but it did not reach a significant difference.

Results:

II- As regards the clinical profile: