

Results. The study included 9,994 health professions students, primarily in the field of medicine, aged between 18 and 23 years. The majority of the students were unmarried, females, and most were in clinical years. The prevalence of behavioral addiction was 36% (95% CI: 20–51), with smartphone addiction being the highest at 46%, followed by internet addiction (42%), social media disorder (22%), and gaming disorder (4%). Substantial heterogeneity was observed among the studies. A funnel plot analysis assessed the potential for publication bias, revealing no significant indication of bias. A significant difference was observed between the groups.

Conclusion. This study identifies five distinct forms of behavioral addictions influencing the mental health and daily activities of health professions students. The findings underscore the need for longitudinal and interventional studies to address this technological threat.

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Prevalence and Interrelation of Irritable Bowel Syndrome With Generalized Anxiety Disorder Among Sudanese Medical Students, 2020

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Aims. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) among medical students at Khartoum University and to examine its association with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

Methods. This cross-sectional study was conducted between December 2020 and February 2021, using the Rome IV criteria to diagnose IBS and a 7-item generalized anxiety disorder (GAD-7) scale to assess GAD. A total of 395 self-administered questionnaires were distributed using proportional allocation based on percentages of students in each academic year and their gender. Simple random sampling was used to select participants. The analysis was done using SPSS, and a p-value of <0.05 was considered significant.

Results. We included 325 medical students with a mean age of 21.4 ± 2.2 years, and 69.5% females and 30.5% males. The overall prevalence of IBS was 16.6%, with the most common subtype being IBS-M (35%), followed by IBS-D (31%), IBS-C (28%), and IBS-U (6%). The prevalence of GAD was 22.8%, and anxiety was detected in 54.5% of students. 7.7% of students had both IBS and GAD, and there was a statistically significant relationship between IBS and GAD (Chi-square = 20.385; $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion. The study findings aligned with previous literature underscoring the prevalence of IBS and GAD among medical students at Khartoum University. Also, sheds light on a substantial association between them. Providing psychological support and stress management programs to medical students is paramount and key to a favorable prognosis.

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Comparative Psychological Evaluation of Individuals With and Without Cleft Lip and Palate: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Aims. This study sought to assess and compare the psychological well-being of both children and adults with cleft lip and palate (CLP) in contrast to those without CLP. The focus was on self-satisfaction regarding facial appearance, popularity among peers, and self-esteem.

Methods. This study was registered at the University of Dundee, including various study designs such as randomized controlled clinical trials, longitudinal, cross-sectional, and observational studies. Only studies concentrating on non-syndromic CLP in children and adults were considered. No limitations were set on age or language. Self-reports, including validated and unvalidated questionnaires, interviews, and observational/clinical assessments, were deemed suitable. Database searches were performed in Medline, Pubmed, Scopus, Cochrane, and Web of Science (January 2019). An electronic search yielded 334 results, with 74 articles meeting the inclusion criteria. After screening and risk of bias assessment, four articles were included in the qualitative analysis, three of which were included in the meta-analysis.

Results. The review encompassed four studies conducted in China, Japan, Sweden, and the United States, involving 442 participants (non-CLP control group $n = 305$, CLP group $n = 137$). While the majority of individuals with CLP did not exhibit significant psychological issues, certain challenges were noted, particularly concerning speech or hearing difficulties, depression, anxiety, and interpersonal relationships. Age did not seem to correlate with the occurrence or severity of psychological problems in CLP patients, with gender playing a significant role, as females tended to be more sensitive to facial appearance. The level of self-satisfaction was not statistically significant between the two groups (OR = 0.85) while the non-CLP group was more likely to rate themselves as being more popular among their peers (OR = 1.48). Also, the non-CLP group has higher self-esteem than CLP patients (OR = 1.05).

Conclusion. Limited evidence suggests that some individuals with cleft lip and palate may face psychological challenges, indicating a need for more structured approaches to assess the psychological well-being of CLP patients.

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A Systematic Review of Virtual Reality vs. Standard Social Skills Training for Improving Social Interaction Skills and Reducing Social Anxiety in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

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