
LEGAL PROBLEMS IN PATIENTS WITH COMORBID ADULT ATTENTION-DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

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Introduction: Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) affects not only children but persists for up to 4.4% in the general population. Comorbidity is common among adults with ADHD, including substance abuse. Patients who have both ADHD and SUD have to cope with the interrelated consequences of both disorders. Substance-dependent subjects have greater health, economic, work, and legal problems

Objectives: The aim of this study was to estimate effect of co morbidity of adult ADHD with substance use disorders on being prone to legal problems.

Methods: This cross-sectional comparative study was conducted in addiction treatment center at El Maamoura psychiatric hospital. One hundred and two adult males were assessed using Arabic version of Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS) and Arabic version of Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale (ASRS-v1.1) Symptom Checklist were used to screen for adult ADHD. DSM IV TR criteria were used for final diagnosis. Past history of legal problems was assessed using hospital records and self report questionnaire. Data were fed to the computer using the Predictive Analytics Software (PASW Statistics 18). Significance of the obtained results was judged at the 5% level.

Results: Thirty six patients fulfilled the DSM – IV TR criteria for adult ADHD. Fourteen patients of the ADHD group had history of legal problems (38.9%), while only 12 patients of the non ADHD group gave such history (18.2%) and the difference was statistical significant ($\chi^2 = 5.259$, $p = 0.022$).

Conclusions: Presence of adult ADHD was associated with significant increased risk of legal problems.