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COMORBIDITY OF SUBSTANCE USE AND PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS AMONG  
INPATIENTS OF A GENERAL HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

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Introduction: In substance - related disorders comorbidity refers to any preexisting or following psychological or psychiatric condition that influence the course and prognosis of a patient.

Objectives: To determine the extent of comorbid substance use and psychiatric disorders among hospitalized in a General Hospital Psychiatric Unit patients and reveal the implications of treatment in such a unit.

Method: All patients hospitalized during a year, were included in the study. Demographics, final diagnosis, substance of use and means of admission (voluntary or involuntary) were recorded.

Results: 7.4% of the total of 339 inpatients met the diagnostic criteria of comorbid substance use disorders. Eleven of them were diagnosed with alcohol use disorder comorbidity, 7 with illicit drug use comorbidity and 7 with both legal and illicit drug use comorbidity. Among inpatients with comorbid use disorders male patients had a significantly higher percentage versus females ( $\chi^2 p < 0.05$ ). Mean age of inpatients with comorbidity was significantly less than the mean age of the sample (t-test  $p < 0.05$ ). Duration of hospitalization for inpatients with comorbidity was  $15.16 \pm 12.4$  days versus  $21.2 \pm 18.4$  days for the rest of patients (t-test  $p < 0.05$ ). Concerning the way of admission, 72% of inpatients with comorbid use disorders were involuntary admitted ( $\chi^2 p < 0.05$ ).

Conclusion: Concerning age, sex and means of admission patients with a psychiatric disorder and substance use disorder comorbidity seem to vary from the rest of inpatients. These parameters are probably associated with serious difficulties in therapeutic compliance and with increased hazard.