

EPV1552

Tobacco dependence and schizophrenia: Tunisian cross-sectional study of 50 cases

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2022.2151

Introduction: Tobacco-use is currently one of the major public health problems and is more common among patients with schizophrenia.

Objectives: We aimed in this study to estimate the prevalence of smoking in a population of patients with schizophrenia, to assess tobacco dependence and to identify its correlated factors.

Methods: This is a descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study carried out on 50 outpatients at the Department of Psychiatry (Tunisia) over a period of two months. For the data collection, we used: a general questionnaire on sociodemographic characteristics and tobacco consumption and the Fagerström test for nicotine dependence.

Results: All the patients were male with a mean age of 32.7 ± 7.02 years and 84% of them were tobacco consumers. More than half of the sample were single (68%) and had a primary school level (52%). A professional irregularity and low socio-economic level were found successively in 84% and 78% of cases. Half of the patients (52%) were diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and 46% of them were treated by atypical antipsychotics. Cigarette dependence was strong or very strong in 82% according to the Fagerstrom test. A positive correlation was found between strong tobacco dependence on the one hand and low socio-economic level, professional irregularity, smoking in a first-degree relative and treatment with a typical neuroleptic on the other hand.

Conclusions: Our study and data from the literature show that subjects with schizophrenia constitute a population of highly dependent smokers. A smoking cessation assistance program for this vulnerable population is a priority to improve their quality of life.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: schizophrenia; antipsychotic; dependence; Tobacco-use

EPV1553

Pattern of Tobacco Use among Children and Adolescents with comorbid Psychiatric Illnesses

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2022.2152

Introduction: Tobacco use is clearly harmful for mental as well as physical health especially among persons <18 years age. It is used in multiple forms in many countries such as, somoling chewing etc. It is important to know the pattern of tobacco use and the comorbid psychiatric illnesses in this age group.

Objectives: To identify the pattern of tobacco use among cases <18 years age with various psychiatric disorders.

Methods: It was a cross-sectional study conducted at a psychiatric clinic at Karachi, on all consecutive cases <18 years. Diagnostic criteria of ICD-10 were used.

Results: A total number of 700 consecutive cases below the age of 18 years reporting to psychiatric clinic were inducted in this study. Out of them 107 (15%) patients reported use of tobacco. Among them 83 (77%) used pan with tobacco. The psychiatric illnesses identified were depressive disorder (39%) & conversion disorder (15%).

Conclusions: Tobacco use (predominantly in the form of chewing), is common amongst children and adolescents reporting for psychiatric consultation. It is important to develop strategies at a community level with legal restriction/implementation selling tobacco to children. Moreover, psychiatric evaluation should be done in all children and adolescents identified as using tobacco, and the term "smoking cessation clinic" should be replaced with "tobacco cessation clinic/ services".

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

EPV1554

Effectiveness of an Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Low-Income Clients Drinking at a High-Risk Level in Social Service Settings

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2022.2153

Introduction: Alcohol screening and brief interventions (ASBIs) for risky drinkers are known to reduce alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm. The present study was the first to investigate the effectiveness of an ASBI for high-risk drinkers of low socio-economic status (SES) in the Korean community social service setting.

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of an ASBI for clients in community social service settings in South Korea.

Methods: A total of 153 clients in social service agencies participated in this study. Clients in the experimental group received alcohol use screening and two sessions of brief motivational interventions (MI). Clients in the comparison group received alcohol problems screening test only. Primary outcome variable was the amount of weekly alcohol consumption, which was measured once before the intervention and three times after the intervention.

Results: When analyses were conducted separately for participants from the self-sufficiency centers and those from the community welfare centers, there was a significant time and group interaction