

EPV0785

The influence of child and adolescent maltreatment on personality disorders and criminal activity in adult women

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Introduction: Since the rates of female criminality are rising it would appear important to conduct the study of the relationship between criminal behaviour and psychiatric diagnoses in female offenders.

Objectives: The main purpose of this investigation is to find out origins of crimes in women and to reveal the influence of child and adolescent maltreatment on personality disorders in adult women.

Methods: Clinical psychopathological, psychological, statistical.

Results: A cohort of 13 females with diagnosis of personality disorders was examined. All of them had committed crimes of violence. In the majority of the sample women had a previous history of psychiatric admissions (child psychiatric hospitals, adolescent units). The retrospective review revealed that the majority of women in their childhood were exposed to emotional, physical and sexual abuse in their families. Our results point that maltreatment may distort personality formation and social adjustment and contribute to behaviour problems, negative relation to socialization and criminal behaviour in adulthood.

Conclusions: The study revealed that psychiatric disorders in childhood and adolescence are predictive of adult criminality in females and also revealed the risk of girls who are victims of maltreatment to become a perpetrator in adulthood. This findings may be used as prognostic indicators of development of aggression in female forensic patients.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: crime; women; victims of maltreatment; personality disorder

EPV0784

Maladjustment of pressure settings of a programmable shunt valve by electromagnetic door locks in Forensic Psychiatry – a case report

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Introduction: Maladjustments and failures of programmable ventriculo-peritoneal shunts have been reported in patients encountering powerful electromagnetic fields, e. g. MRI.

We describe the case of a 53-year old man treated for hydrocephalus with a programmable Codman-Hakim shunt valve. During his hospitalization in Forensic Psychiatry, the patient's valve pressure setting changed randomly despite frequent reprogramming and surveillance.

Objectives: Maladjustments and failures of programmable ventriculo-peritoneal shunts have been reported in cases in which patients have encountered powerful electromagnetic fields, e.g., MRI. Through a case, this study shows easy maladjustment of a Codman-Hakim programmable valve also by small magnetic fields from everyday life.

Methods: A 53-year old man presented with periventricular hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis. The patient was treated with a left ventriculo-peritoneal Codman-Hakim programmable shunt valve. During his hospitalization in Forensic Psychiatry, the patient's valve pressure setting changed randomly, presumably by walking through electromagnetically controlled doors of a hospital ward. With a test dummy, changes in pressure settings were tracked.

Results: Both - pressure settings of the patient's Codman-Hakim programmable valve as well as pressure settings of a new valve - were unwantedly modified simply by walking through standard doors in a hospital ward.

Conclusions: Thus already weak magnetic fields (< 200 mT) might cause changes in the pressure settings of programmable shunt valves and therefore lead to maladjustment. Patients should be informed and pay attention to using everyday life's devices, like rod magnets or mobile phones.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: maladjustment; Codman-Hakim programmable shunt valve; magnetic field; case report

EPV0785

Epidemiological and clinical aspects of psychiatric disorders in Tunisian prisons

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Introduction: The estimation of the percentage of mentally ill among prisoners and of the most severe psychiatric disorders has been the subject of few studies in Tunisia.

Objectives: To study in a general way the extent of psychiatric disorders among prisoners. To describe the socio-demographic and judicial characteristics of prisoners. To describe the clinical, evolutionary and therapeutic characteristics of the main psychiatric disorders.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional and descriptive study, carried out over a period of 4 months (February 2021-May 2021) on one hundred and twelve inmates of the civil prison of Mahdia followed in psychiatry. Data were collected using a pre-established questionnaire. It is made up of 30 items.

Results: The prevalence of mental disorders in prison was 9.03%. The descriptive study revealed an average age of 37.57 years, a