

Dissociative disorders in Egyptian armed forces : Cross-sectional study

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Thesis ; M.Sc. 1999

Eighteen patients were studied, all were military personnel. 14 were classified as acute hysteria, 2 as chronic hysterics, and 2 as dissociative disorders. 60% of the acute hysteria group showed high scores on Hamilton anxiety and depression scales denoting high degree of psychiatric co-morbidity which signified that "conversion" per se was not "enough" to guard against psychiatric morbidity. However, the chronic hysteria and dissociative group showed lower scores, but did show much higher scores on stresses scale denoting that chronic disability and sick-role seemed to have led to poorer adjustment and more distress in addition to poorer prognosis in forms of "hysteria".