Psychosocial correlates of substance abuse : A study in an Egyptian sample .

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This work was conducted in the Institute of Psychiatry, Ain Shams University Hospitals during the period between the beginning of January 2000 and the end of July, 2000. Various correlates of Egyptian substance abusers, as a preliminary step of constructing preventive and therapeutic programs for substance abuse in Egypt, were studied. A pilot study, followed by the main study (case control study) was conducted. This work studied substance abuse among 154 substance abusers (either admitted to addiction unit or attended the addiction outpatient clinic) ; all met the diagnostic criteria of DSM-III-R Classification System of Substance Abuse (APA, 1987). The results showed that abusers had low levels of education and occupation ; also had un-stabilized marital history. Hesitated familial background is an important correlate for substance abuse. Family history, past history and personal history are important predictors for outcome of siblings regarding substance abuse. The study emphasized on the role of peers and the availability of substances as important correlates of substance abuse. Abusers showed very low scores of the internal and total religiosity in both Muslim and Christian cases. Also, abusers had high scores of neuroticism, impulsivity, extroversion and lie scales. Meanwhile, they have high scores of dysfunctional attitude scales (both forms A and B). Opioids in 51.9% of cases, then sedatives, hypnotics and anxiolytics group in 27.3% of cases were recorded. The commonest route of administration was the intravenous route in 45.8% of cases, followed by the oral route in 40.3% of cases. 51.3% of substance abusers had axis-I comorbidity. While, 56.5% of substance abusers had axis-II comorbidity. The study concluded that substance abuse is a complex heterogeneous multi-factorial disorder, no single cause could be identified and no single patient could be similar to others. Hence, tailoring a plan of management for each patient is a must.