

Suicidal probability in heroin-dependant individuals

Sabri, W. M.

Supervised by El-Mahallawi, Naglaa. Haroun, Amani. El-Khayya

Ain-Shams Univ., Cairo (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.Sc. 2004

The studied cases were selected from the Institute of Psychiatry, Ain-Shams University Hospitals during the period from September 2003 to July 2004. This study aimed to assess the suicidal probability among the heroin-dependent individuals. A cross-sectional case-control observational study was conducted. This work studied two groups : The first group included 50 heroin-dependent individuals and the second group included 50 controls. The suicidal probability scale (SPS) by Cull and Gill (1982) and the Arabic Version by El-Behairy (1992) were carried out for both groups, then only the cases were assessed by "causes of substance dependence questionnaire" (Askar, 2001), and EEG was done to cases to detect the presence of epileptic focus. The results showed that heroin-dependent individuals had higher suicidal probability than their controls, where 44% of the cases had severe suicidal probability, 26% had moderate suicidal probability, 26% had mild suicidal probability and only 4% had no suicidal probability compared with the control group [42% showed no suicidal probability, 36% mild, 14% moderate and 8% severe]. The study summarized the relationship of heroin-dependence in three frameworks : Heroin-dependence as a cause of suicide, as a form of suicide or as a manifestation of a common etiology.