

Relapse predictors in patients with psychoactive substance use in Egyptian culture

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This study was conducted in the Institute of Psychiatry, Ain-Shams University Hospitals during the period from March 2002 to March 2003. It aimed to detect relapse predictors among sample of Egyptian substance abusers. A case control study was performed. Two groups were studied : Group A consisted of 30 cases (all were inpatients of addiction department with high relapse) and group B consisted of 30 outpatients with low relapse rate ; both groups fulfilling the DSM-IV-TR for diagnosis of substance use disorders. All were subjected to semi-structured interview sheet, addiction severity index (ASI) (McLellan et al, 1985), life events assessment by social readjustment rating scale (SRRS) (Okasha et al, 1981), religious orientation scale (ROS), with its two forms (A for Moslems and B for Christians, El-Behairy and Demerdash, 1988) and structured clinical interview for DSM IV (SCID) ; both versions were used SCID I Version for comorbid axis I diagnoses and SCID II for axis II diagnoses (First et al, 1997). The results showed that a high relapse rate was found to be associated with low educational level, unemployment, high social class, positive family history of substance use disorders or other psychiatric disorders and having low scores of internal religiosity. The study concluded that the assessment of substance use disorders patients is mandatory in order to predict the outcome of the patient.