

Tobacco smoking and other psychoactive substance use among Egyptian inpatient males

in Abbassia and Khanka mental hospitals

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This study was done in the Faculty of Medicine, Al-Azhar University during 1992-93. It aimed to examine the relationship between tobacco smoking and psychoactive substance use among male inpatients at two Egyptian mental hospitals. The clinical population of Abbassia and Khanka mental hospitals constituted the material of this study. They were divided into three groups : The first group (N = 51) was formed of inpatients with psychoactive substance use disorders, the second group (N = 51) was nicotine-dependent outpatients and inpatients and the third group (N = 51) was formed of controls. All were assessed using clinical psychiatric interview, Eysenck personality questionnaire (Eysenck, 1975), general health questionnaire (Goldberg, 1970) and scale for ego strength (Kafafi, 1982). The results showed that tobacco use and experimental hashish use among members of the dependent group begin at an earlier age (before than 15 years of age) than the other two groups. Tobacco smoking almost always preceded the use, abuse and dependency of other psychoactive substances in the dependent group. Members of the dependent group smoked more frequent (36.3 cigarettes per day) than the smoking group (26.7 cigarettes per day). It was concluded that the early onset of smoking may indicate a susceptibility for other psychoactive substance.