

Suicidality in addiction : Risk factors

El-Rakhawi, M. Y.

Supervised by

Shahin, O. Abdel-Hamid, A. A. Raslan, M.

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This study was conducted in the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. It aimed to investigate the risk factors which increase the incidence of suicide in addicts as awareness of these risk factors may be of benefit, not only in the prevention of suicide but also in the management of these patients. Two groups were assessed : The 1st consisted of 76 addicts who had just survived after an attempt of suicide and the 2nd group of 103 addicts without any history of suicidal behavior. The attempters were found to be older, more single and less educated. They had higher frequency of comorbidity, especially depression, anxiety and adjustment disorder, higher degree of hopelessness on the Beck hopelessness scale, higher degree of depression and anxiety on the Hamilton scale for depression and anxiety, in addition to higher positive family history of suicide. It was concluded that the clinical implications included evaluating the risk factors of suicide in each addict, especially the mood state, in addition to the extensive treatment of comorbid psychiatric disorders, especially depression, as well as taking into consideration the therapeutic implication of the dynamics of addiction during treatment were emphasized.