

The relation between child abuse and drug dependence in a sample of male Egyptian inpatients

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This study was performed in the Faculty of Medicine, Al-Azhar University, during 2000-2001. It aimed to define the relation between the different forms of child abuse and drug abuse after puberty. The study included two individually matched groups. The 1st (dependent group) consisted of 103 addicted males, their age ranged between 18-45, literate and followed the diagnostic criteria of DSM-IV (APA, 1994). The 2nd group (control group) consisted of 103 members of the families of the addicted people with no history of psychiatric disorders or substance abuse and had GHQ score less than 4 and have the same educational and social level. The two groups were assessed by clinical psychiatric interview depends upon DSM-IV criteria, child trauma questionnaire (David Brenshtein, 1985) and the general health questionnaire (Goldberg, 1970). The results showed that the ratio of all kinds of child abuse in substance abusers is much higher than those in the non abusers according to the quantity and quality. The relations between child abuse and the age of starting addiction are more obvious in starting age from (25-29 years). The relation between all kinds of child abuse and the psycho-active substance abused is clearly obvious in those addicted to heroin. The relation between all kinds of child abuse and the way of abuse is shown mostly in intravenous injection as a consequence. The relation between all kinds of child abuse and the duration of addiction is obvious, especially in the duration of abuse (from 5-9 years). The relation between all kinds of child abuse and the age of starting smoking is more obvious, especially in those less than 15 years old. GHQ scores on group's shows that there is a relation between child abuse and drug abuse.