

Prevalence of obsessive compulsive disorder in female secondary school students in Cairo

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This study aimed to estimate the pinpoint prevalence of obsessive compulsive disorder, and subthreshold obsessive compulsive syndrome in Egyptian females during the adolescent period. The study also delineated the commonest OC symptoms in culture that may be different from adults. The study was conducted on female secondary schools in Cairo. It covered urban, semiurban and rural areas and public and private schools, the total sample included 607 students. Two-stage design was applied. It was found that the point prevalence of OCD was 1.2%, and that for SOCS was 13.01% ; these values were not significantly affected by order of birth, religion, residency, or socioeconomic state. The mean age for OCD was 14.42, while that for SOCS was 15.15. The commonest OC symptom was excess conscience being significantly commonest in rural area and similarly it was more common in public than private schools. Comorbid psychiatric disorder was detected in all cases of OCD, dysthymia and non OCD anxiety disorders were the most common.