

Point prevalence rates of obsessive compulsive symptoms and obsessive compulsive disorder in a sample of secondary school students in a rural area in Egypt

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The objective of this study was to determine the point prevalence rates of obsessive compulsive symptoms and OCD and the associated risk factors for a sample of secondary school students located in an Egyptian rural community. A two-stage cross sectional study was carried out. The results revealed that 18.4% of the sample had scores above 20 points on the ?OCS portion of SCL-90?, with the earlier the age the more the affection. Of this portion of the sample, 91 students were fulfilling the DSM-IV diagnostic criteria of OCD. There were comorbid psychiatric disorders in 43% of OCD patients and the most prevalent comorbid condition was major depression, then dysthymia, with prevalence rates were 15.5% and 9.9%, respectively. The type of communication inside the family, death of one of the parent, family history of a psychiatric disorder, history of childhood psychiatric disorder, the presence of physical illness and presence of a precipitating factor were significantly associated with OCD. On the other hand, the sex, age of the student, family size and birth order had no statistically significant association with OCD.