

The prevalence of obsessive compulsive phenomenon in a sample of substance abuse patients : An Egyptian study

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The present study highlighted the prevalence and phenomenology of obsessive-compulsive phenomenon in a sample of Egyptian substance abuse patients. A randomized sample of 135 substance abuse patients was examined using the Arabic Version of Yale Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Symptoms Checklist (YBOCS), Eysenck Rigidity Scale (ERS) and Religious Orientation Scale (ROS). They were compared with a control group (108) matched for age, sex, religion and years of education. Obsessive-compulsive symptoms were found to be significantly higher in the substance abuse patients group (15.6%) than in the control group (2.8%). This was not the case with obsessive-compulsive traits, there was no statistical significant difference between the substance abuse patients group (28.9%) and the control group (38.9%). Furthermore, the data suggested slight difference in the phenomenology of obsessive-compulsive phenomena between both patients and control groups. There was a relationship between obsessive-compulsive symptoms and rigidity-flexibility trait in the patients group.