

Substance use and cigarette smoking correlated with age at onset and severity of psychotic symptoms, respectively, in a sample of recent schizophrenic patients

Abdel-Azhim, E.

Current Psychiatry. Ain Shams University (Print)

2007 v14 n2

This study aimed to examine the association between substance use and the age at onset of schizophrenia in a sample of recent schizophrenic patients and to find out the relation of cigarette smoking with the psychotic symptoms for smoking patients. A sample of 148 patients with first episode schizophrenia was recruited for this study. After approval, the socio-demographic data of the patients with self reported data about their substance use and smoking data were recorded as well as the age of onset of the illness. Mental state examination and social function also were assessed. The study concluded that there is a strong association between self-reported cannabis use and earlier onset of psychosis with evidence that schizophrenia may be precipitated by cannabis use or the early onset of psychotic symptoms is a risk factor for cannabis use and there is a link between smoking and the severity of psychotic symptoms.