

A community study of paranoid symptoms in the elderly population

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Tanta Univ. (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.D. 2002

This study was made to evaluate the prevalence of late life onset of paranoid symptoms and to detect the different risk factors. The subjects of that study were 1000 elderly individual above the age of 65 living in Kafer El- Zayat city and affiliated villages (El-Gharbia province), 200 were surveyed in the urban area, while 800 were surveyed in the rural areas for the presence of paranoid symptoms which represented for the first time above the age of 65. The psychiatric information was partially derived from BEHAVE-AD scale (Behavioral pathology in Alzheimer's disease rating scale), social readjustment rating scale, physical self-maintenance scale and the cognitive capacity screening examination.

The results of that study found that the prevalence of late life onset of paranoid symptoms was 8.1% with no significant difference between rural and urban areas. The significant demographic associates were being a female and living without a spouse. The commonest etiological disorders were dementia disorders with Alzheimer Disease as the most frequent cause followed by vascular and mixed dementia. The affective disorders were the second leading cause followed by the other organic disorders like the general medical conditions, delirium, and drug induced mental disorders and finally, the delusional disorder came as the least frequent cause of late onset paranoid symptoms.