

Prevalence of depression and suicidal attempts in a sample of never-medicated first episode Egyptian schizophrenics

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To assess the prevalence of depression and suicidal attempts in a sample of never medicated first episode Egyptian schizophrenics. A total of 50 never-medicated first episode Egyptian schizophrenics with predominant positive symptoms (31 males and 19 females, age ranged 15-35). They were diagnosed using ICD-10 criteria and assessed by SAPS scale and differentiated into two groups (depressed and non-depressed according to Beck depression inventory scoring) and the prevalence of depression in depressed group according to BDI scoring were assessed and the two groups were also compared as regards the prevalence of suicidal attempts. The results showed that there was a significant increase in the prevalence of depression and suicidal attempts in the studied sample (36% and 27.8%, respectively). There was an insignificant difference between depressed and non-depressed schizophrenics as regards age, sex, occupation, marital status, residence, past history of depression and family history of schizophrenia. There was a significant increase in the prevalence of living alone and early parental loss in depressed schizophrenics compared with non-depressed schizophrenics.