

Psychiatric morbidity in infertility among a sample of Egyptian women : The impact on treatment outcome

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A case control, observational study was conducted in Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Ain Shams University Hospitals and the Assisted Reproductive Technique Unit to test the hypothesis that women suffering from infertility are more likely to have psychiatric morbidity and this will impact the outcome of the infertility treatment.

The patients' group included 107 Egyptian female patients. They were compared to 100 fertile women, which represented the control group. All were selected during a one-year interval.

The tools included (1) Clinical psychiatric assessment, (2) Standardized psychiatric assessment using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID- I), (3) Clinical psychological assessment tools including Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), the Manifest Anxiety Scale. The results of the study showed that 57.9% of examined infertile females suffered from psychiatric diagnosis at time of interview in comparison to 28.0% only in control group.

Anxiety disorders were the most frequent encountered diagnostic category in infertile patients reaching (19.6%) followed by mood disorders (17.8%). Comorbidity between mood and anxiety disorders was high. Infertile patients with Axis-I diagnosis are at risk for poor response to fertility treatment, as 77.4% of all infertile patients with psychiatric morbidity failed to achieve pregnancy in comparison to 35.6% of infertile ladies without psychiatric morbidity which was statistically very highly significant .

Moreover, the infertile patients with comorbid psychiatric diagnoses has the most poor response and outcome (pregnancy rate= (11.8%), followed by mood disorders (15.8%) and then anxiety disorders (28.6%) while it reached 64.4% among infertile patients without psychiatric morbidity . It was concluded that infertile women in Egypt are at risk for developing mood and anxiety disorders and comorbidities between both. Psychiatric morbidity is negatively correlated with infertility treatment outcome.