

Psychological profile of a sample of Egyptian patients with ischemic heart disease

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Aim of the work: To assess whether coronary heart disease in the Egyptian population could be predisposed to by a certain personality and to assess whether coronary heart disease is associated with any specific psychiatric morbidity. Method: 90 IHD patients with (30 with old and 30 patients with recent myocardial infarction, and 30 patients with angina pectoris) are subjected to a structured interview, HAS and HDS and the EPQ. 50 healthy controls are assessed only by means of the structured interview. Results: 35 out of the 90 (38.88%) IHD patients have psychiatric morbidity. On HAS, patients with recent myocardial infarction have significantly the smallest score, followed by patients with old myocardial infarction, while the most anxious are patients with angina pectoris. The scores on HDS show a similar distribution. EPI reveals that IHD patients are more extravert and much more neurotic. According to the Structured Interview, Type A personality is common in IHD patients. Conclusion: 38.88% of patients with IHD show psychiatric symptoms. Patients with angina pectoris are the most anxious and depressed. Type A personality is common in IHD patients.