

Marital satisfaction in parents living with a schizophrenic offspring : A neglected topic

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The aim of this work is to study nature of marital stresses in parents living with a schizophrenic offspring and compare them with a control group of normal parents.

Parents of 30 single schizophrenic patients, compared with a control group of 20 parents of normal offspring. Full psychiatric sheet applied to patients and the arabic version of marital satisfaction inventory (El Biblawy*, 1987) applied to the parents of the patients and control group.

Results: Fathers of schizophrenics have significantly higher score of sexual dissatisfaction subscale of marital satisfaction inventory than fathers of normal offspring. Mothers of schizophrenics have higher score of sexual dissatisfaction subscale of marital satisfaction inventory than mothers of normal offspring, but without significant difference.

Conclusion: Fathers of schizophrenics express significantly higher marital distress and sexual dissatisfaction.