

Role of the spouse in addiction : Is there a contribution?

Abou-El-Magd, S. Erfan, S. M. Abdel-Wahhab, M. Abdel-Gawwad, T. M.

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The aim of this work was to assess the psychological profile of spouses of addicts and to identify patterns of marital dysfunction among heroin addicts.

Thirty heroin addicts for at least two years, married for at least two years also. The age range between 24-45 years. Evidence for organic, psychotic or substance use disorder is excluded in the spouses of the 30 heroin addicts. The control group composed of 30 male adults and their spouses matched for age, social background and duration of marriage.

Heroin addicts were subjected to Guilford aggression scale and marital satisfaction inventory. Spouses were subjected to the same scales in addition to Hamilton depression and Hamilton anxiety scales.

Results: Spouses of addicts show significant dissatisfaction on all parameters of marital satisfaction inventory (includes sexual satisfaction) as compared to controls. Conclusion: Spouses of addicts show significantly high levels of dissatisfaction in all domains of marital relations (include sexual satisfaction).