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ADHD IN ALCOHOLISM: A REAL PROBLEM?

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Introduction: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a risk factor for drug.

Prevalence rates between 15 and 30% had been previously found in this population.

Objective: To identify the real the prevalence of ADHD in alcoholics and to find/test/evaluate? a new type of screening (ASRS) for the initial diagnosis of ADHD in alcoholics.

Method: 312 patients from an outpatient clinic for alcoholism were recruited during 1 year. All patients completed the ASRS: Adult Self-Report Scale. DSM IV criteria were used for other psychiatric diagnoses.

Results:

- 312 patients (66.3% (207) men) filled out the ASRS of which 13.5% (42) were positive,.
- Alcohol consumption: 69% for more than 1 month, 17% less than a month and 14% with active consumption.
- 27.6% (86) had another psychiatric diagnosis from which 69% were ASRS positive. ASRS positive patients present a major risk of having another mental disorder. OR= 8.3 (4,1 - 17,1, $c^2= 0,77$, $p= 0,001$).
- Other drugs: 70.5% consume other drugs. 76% of them are ASRS positive. 27.6% consumed illegal substances, 47.6% of them being ASRS positive ($c^2= 9.77$, $p= 0,002$). ASRS positive patient have more average substance abuse (including tobacco): 1.02 DT: 0.87 versus 0.72, 7 DT: 0.04 ($z -2.21$, $p.027$).

Conclusions:

- ASRS detected 13.5% of ADHD diagnosis in alcoholics.
- Patients with positive screening present more substance abuse and more risk of psychiatric comorbidity.