
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF PARASUICIDAL BEHAVIOR AMONG ALCOHOL DEPENDENT WOMEN

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Introduction: It is well recognized that alcohol dependence is among the major risk factors that are associated with suicidal behavior.

Objectives: This study was design to extend our understanding of alcohol-parasuicidal relationship by examining same of the socio-demographic and mental health characteristics of alcohol dependent women attempted to commit suicide.

Methods: The relationship between alcohol dependence and parasuicide was studied among patients admitted to a Gomel regional psychiatric hospital (Belarus). A total 48 female alcohol dependent in-patients (ADPS) and a comparison group of 151 non-alcohol dependent parasuicidal in-patients (NADPS) were investigated. The socio-demographic and mental health profile of each group was analyzed.

Results: Risk factors for parasuicide were acute alcohol intoxication, social dysfunction and psychiatric symptoms. Results show that, compared with NADPS patients, those with an alcohol dependence were younger (34.1 vs. 36.6%; $p < 0.05$), unemployed (54.2 vs. 29.1%; $p < 0.001$), unmarried (72.9 vs. 59.9%; $p < 0.001$), or with a past history of deliberate self-harm (29.2 vs. 20.5%; $p < 0.05$). Consumption of alcohol at the time of the parasuicidal act was reported more commonly by ADPS patients (75.0 vs. 21.2 %; $p < 0.001$). Comorbid psychiatric disorders were presented in 64.4% of ADPS and in 93.2% of NADPS patients. The prevalence of affective disorders (10.6 vs. 2.1%; $p < 0.001$), stress-related disorders (22.5 vs. 8.3%; $p < 0.001$) and schizophrenia (9.6 vs. 2.1%; $p < 0.001$) were higher among NADPS compared with ADPS patients.

Conclusions: These findings are consistent with previous researches indicating a causal role for acute alcohol intoxication in parasuicidal behavior among alcohol dependent individuals.