

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

Development of a New Vernacular Tool for Diagnosis of Alcohol Dependence in the Emergency

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Background: Alcohol dependence (AD) is a major reason for morbidity and visits to emergency medical settings. However, the detection of AD is often difficult or overlooked. This study aimed to develop a brief screening questionnaire in Hindi language for detection of AD in an emergency medical setting.

Methods: The authors in consultation devised a set of questions related to AD in the Hindi language requiring binary yes/no type of response. These questions were guided by clinical experience, nosological criteria and previously published screening questionnaires. After initial piloting, these questions were administered by the treating doctors to 100 consenting adult patients presenting with possible AD in the emergency medical services of a tertiary care hospital in North India. A diagnosis of AD was done by administering Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview separately. Identification of the most discriminant combinations of items for the detection of AD were based on the chi-square test and binary logistic regression analyses. The final version of the questionnaire was then externally validated on another cohort of patients.

Results: Based on the analyses, we retained 5 items in the final version of the questionnaire. Sensitivity and specificity values for cut-off scores were calculated. Subsequent external validation revealed satisfactory psychometric properties of the questionnaire.

Conclusion: The questionnaire represents a simple and brief clinician-administered instrument for screening of AD in an emergency medical setting.

Keywords: Alcoholism; Addiction; Psychometrics; Substance Abuse Detection

Prevalence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Adults Hospitalized in Toxicology Ward of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences with Alcohol Poisoning

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Background: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a common psychiatric disorder among children and adolescents that can be continued into adulthood in 30 to 50% of cases. Adult ADHD disorder can affect the performance of an individual and may predispose to drug abuse, alcoholism, smoking, sexual offenses, violation of law, educational and other social problems. The coincidences of this disorder and mood disorders or anxiety disorders are common. Therefore this study was aimed to investigate the prevalence of ADHD in adult patients hospitalized with alcohol poisoning symptoms.

Methods: This cross sectional study was performed for 6 months on 95 patients with alcohol poisoning who were hospitalized in Imam Reza Hospital. The patients were selected by non-random sampling after psychiatric interview and completing the demographic features checklist and the Conners adult attention – deficit/hyperactivity (CAARS-S: OV) questionnaire. Data were analyzed by SPSS-18 software.

Results: The prevalence of adult ADHD was found to be 5.5%. Hyperactivity disorder in adult men was higher than women and likely to be four times higher. Smoking prevalence in the patients was greater than the normal population (3%). Demographic features such as marital status, education level and employment status in these patients had no significant association with the risk of adult ADHD. The incidence of psychiatric disorders, including cluster B personality traits and depression disorder and alcohol abuse in people with adult ADHD who were admitted due to alcohol poisoning, was higher.

Conclusion: ADHD seems to be common among adults with a history of alcohol abuse compared with the normal population. The diagnosis and treatment of hyperactivity disorder in adolescents and adults can play an effective role in the prevention and treatment of serious behavioral problems and psychiatric disorders, including alcohol-related disorders.

Keywords: Alcohol-Induced Disorders; Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity; Psychiatry