

Clinical Presentations and Risk Factors of Adolescent Substance Abuse Disorders

A thesis submitted for Fulfillment of the Ph. D. Degree in Childhood Studies - (Child Health and Nutrition)

By

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2012

Acknowledgment

I express my sincere appreciation to my supervisor *Prof.*Olweya Mohamed Abd El Baki for her great support, true encouragement, real care and keen interest in the progress and accomplishment of this work. Further I extend my gratitude to my supervisor *Prof. Aref Khoweiled* for his help and support from the beginning in initiating this work, building its design, correcting errors and for his constructive feedback.

No words will be sufficient to describe my gratitude to my great *Prof. Yehia El Rakhawy*, he is a great teacher, a great advisor, kind father and a supportive friend.

Also I would like to thank a lot *Prof. Mona El Rakhawy* for her great support, deep insights and great care during tough times of this work.

My appreciation goes also to *Prof. Naira Ismail* for her support and help in statistical analysis of this study.

My appreciation goes to my colleagues and friends in Dar Al Mokatum for Mental Health Hospital and Freedom Center For Addiction Treatment.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to *Dr. Saber Abd El Mawogood*, *Mr. Mohammed Bawa and Mr. Abdalla Soliman* for their great effort in statistical analysis.

My appreciation to my beloved wife, Nadine Shams, how gave me support, love and strength.

Finally I have been assisted directly by the 100 adolescents who participated in this study, offering time and their experience generously.



Aim of the Study

The aim of this study was to:

- 1- To study the clinical presentations of the adolescent substance use disorders, including the patterns and the severity of abuse.
- 2- To identify the effect of risk factors on adolescent addiction severity.



Introduction

Adolescents represent a unique group of patients whose physical, cognitive, emotional, moral and spiritual development, as well as the environment of this development influences their values and thus subsequent behaviors. Compared to other life stages, adolescence is a period characterized by an amplified capability for behaviors that have potentially dangerous outcomes. (Gullone and Moore, 2000).

Nine out of 10 people who meet the clinical criteria for substance use disorders involving nicotine, alcohol or other drugs began smoking, drinking or using other drugs before they turned 18. People who begin using any addictive substance before age 15 are six and a half times as likely to develop a substance use disorder as those who delay use until age 21 or older (*The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse [CASA] at Columbia University*, 2011b).

Substance abuse not only affects adolescent morbidity and mortality rates, but also the lives of many others, including families, friends, acquaintances, as well as the health care system, and, ultimately, the health and economics of a nation.

In Egypt, drug addiction is considered one of the serious problems that concern the government. Because it involves



young people in their productive age, drug addiction may lead to problems such as bad social adaptation, decreasing productivity at work or dismissal (*Okasha et al.*, 1985).

Empirical evidence suggests that substance abuse is a heterogeneous syndrome with different clinical presentations in aetiology, onset and course, symptoms, and lifetime substance use patterns (*Glantz and Leshner*, 2000).

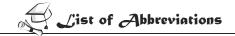


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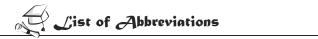


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List of Abbreviations

Adolescent Assessment/Referral System
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Adolescent Diagnostic Interview
Adolescent Problem Severity Index
Addiction Severity Index
Amphetamine-Type Stimulants
Comprehensive Assessment Battery
National Center on Addiction and Substance
Abuse, at Columbia University
Comprehensive Addiction Severity Index for
Adolescents
Central Nervous System
Children of alcoholic parents
Client Personal History Questionnaire
Drug addiction rehabilitation centers
American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic
and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders -
IV
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and
Drug Addiction.
The East Mediterranean Regional Office
European Schools Project on Alcohol and other
Drugs (ESPAD)



GABA:	Gama Aminobutyric Acid
HBV:	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV:	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV:	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICD-10:	International Classification of Diseases – 10 for
	research
MCDAAP:	Minnesota Chemical Dependency Adolescent
	Assessment Package.
NIDA:	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in
	the United States
PEI:	Personal Experience Inventory
PESQ:	Personal Experience Screening Questionnaire
	(PESQ)
POSIT:	Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for
	Teenagers
SAMH-2:	Substance Abuse and Mental Health
	Assessment
SIFFM:	Structured Interview for the Five-Factor Model
	of Personality
SOFA:	Short Scale of Family Atmosphere
SUD:	Substance use disorders
TASI:	Teen Addiction Severity Index
UNODC:	United Nations office on Drugs and Crimes
WHO:	World Health Organization



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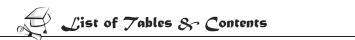
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