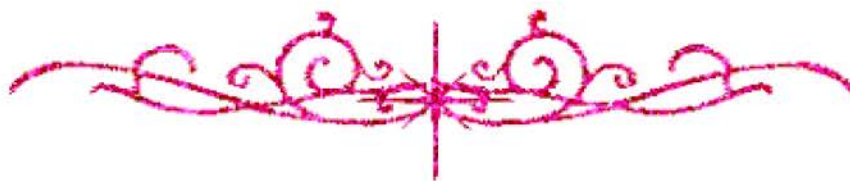


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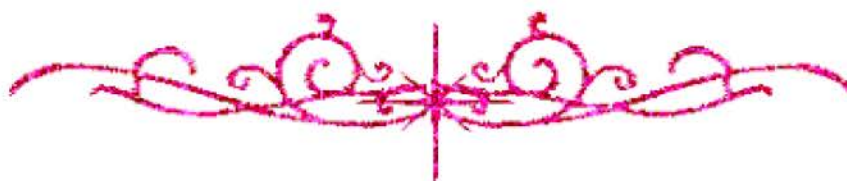
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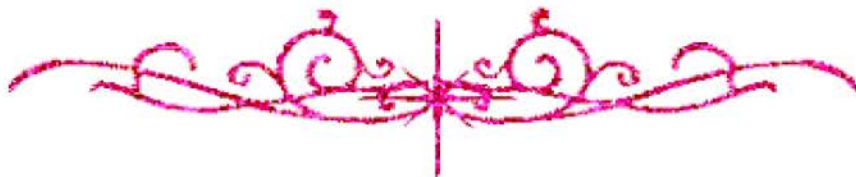
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نقسم بالله العظيم أن المادة التي تم توثيقها وتسجيلها
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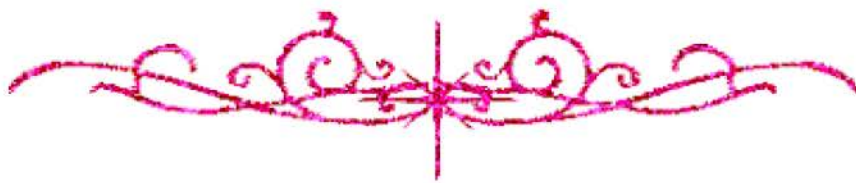
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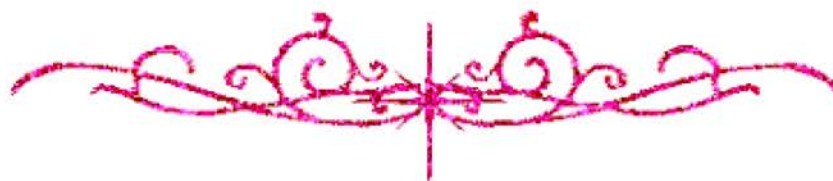
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بالرسالة صفحات
لم ترد بالأصل



**THE EFFECT OF SUPPORTIVE GROUP
THERAPY ON SUICIDAL CORRELATES
AMONG PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS**

Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Nursing

Alexandria University

In partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Suicide is a perplexing phenomenon that calls to mind the very nature of human existence. It reminds people of their vulnerability, their transient human dwelling place, and most of all, their search for meaning in life.⁽¹⁾ Suicide, as a premature intentional exit from life, is considered to be an ultimate act of self-destructive behavior that directly affects the client's physical and mental wellbeing.^(2,3)

Suicide is the most important consequence of psychiatric disorder, and most major psychiatric disorders carry a high suicide risk.^(4,5,6) International findings have consistently indicated that up to 90% of completed suicides in all age groups are associated with some form of mental disorders.^(7,8,9) Likewise, studies from WHO have claimed to find among suicides, about three times the rate of mental disorders as people with non-suicidal natural death (77% versus 25% respectively).⁽¹⁰⁾ In Egypt, according to the official police record, data available in 1991, 1992 and 1993 documented that psychiatric disorders constituted 71.9%, 59.2% and 61.4% of all suicides respectively.⁽¹¹⁾

Furthermore, there is growing evidence that patients with mental disorders are more at risk of suicide compared to the general population.^(5,10,12) Generally speaking, studies reported that the rate of

suicide in psychotic patients was more than 20 times higher than that expected in a normal population.^(13,14) Within this relatively high risk group, the risk of suicide is considerably increased in patients with certain psychiatric disorders.^(5,13) Studies around the world confirmed that suicide is the chief cause of premature death among schizophrenic patients.^(15,16,17,18) As compared to the general population base rate for suicide, the suicide rate among schizophrenic persons appears disturbingly high.^(9,18,19,20) In USA, the annual suicide rates consistently range between 350 and 600 per 100,000 among schizophrenic persons compared to a general population rate of 11.4 per 100,000 persons.⁽¹⁸⁾ The figures reported by Canadian and Swedish studies among schizophrenics were 19.6 and 12.3 times respectively higher than that in the general population.^(21,22) Moreover, a substantial percentage of patients with schizophrenia also attempted suicide, with estimates of lifetime occurrence ranging from 18% to 55%.^(23,24,25,26)

Researchers have suggested that identification of suicidal risk factors among psychotic patients at a given time is crucial, in order to plan preventive measures.^(27,28,29) Several studies reported that suicidal risk among psychotic patients is elevated during the early 10 years of illness.^(4,30,31) During this period, the most consistently identified clinical risk factors for suicide in psychosis, are the presence of current or past depression,^(4,26,32) feeling of hopelessness,^(16,31) social isolation and feeling of loneliness.^(16,30,33)