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**EFFECT OF SEPARATION ANXIETY DISORDER ON ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS**

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Studies show that emotional distress, coping difficulties and psychological maladjustment contribute to addictive disorders. Few however focussed on anxiety. Because Separation Anxiety Disorder (SAD) is probably the most common emotional disorder observed in childhood we conducted a follow-back study of inpatients with drug dependence and eating disorders (DSM-III-R criteria). In order to investigate the prevalence rate of childhood SAD and clinical features associated with this, 199 patients (86 males and 113 females between the ages of 13 and 47 (mean age 24 years) were studied. Current and lifetime psychiatric histories were assessed using structured interviews (SAD-LA, SCID) and a self-report questionnaire (SCL 90). Traumatic childhood events were collected as described by Faravelli. Results showed that 24.6% had a past history of childhood SAD and they experienced significantly more frequently somatic illnesses and physical abuse in childhood when compared with those without SAD. This population exhibited a higher prevalence of anxiety disorders, (panic disorder, agoraphobia) and suicide attempt. Their psychopathological profile was also significantly more affected. The data suggest a specific association between anxiety disorders and addictive disorders and show that epidemiological investigations can be helpful to plan prevention and treatment of addictive behaviour in the young.

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**ASPECTS OF THE LIFE HISTORY OF WOMEN AGRESSED BY THEIR HUSBANDS AS REGISTERED BY THE POLICE STATION FOR WOMEN IN CAMPINAS-SAO PAULO**

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**Objectives:** to study the social and demographic data of women and their husbands in the light of the increase of the violence of husbands against their wives, the motivation and emotional factors on both sides and relevant aspects of their life histories. Case histories have been used from the Police Station for Women in Campinas and aspects of the function of this station are also discussed.

**Method:** 60 subjects were contacted at the Police Station (30 men and 30 victims). The men had been in steady relationships (official as well as unofficial) with the women for at least 6 months and had been registered at the Station for violent actions against their wives. A semi-guided interview was used with questions to allow spontaneous verbalization of the facts. A control group of 60 individuals with the same demographic data but no aggression was also used and asked the same questions.

**Results:** (i) alcohol abuse was found in 53.33% of the men; (ii) a link between aggression and sexual difficulties was found; (iii) 28.33% of the aggressors had seen violence between their fathers and mothers; (iv) 51.7% of men had been severely beaten in childhood by their parents (against 26.67% in the control group).

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**CLIENT SATISFACTION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

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The aim is to evaluate satisfaction about treatment and care received in a group of patients of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre Fatebenefratelli in Brescia in the light of the increasing importance of quality assessment.

**Method:** Administration of the "Questionnaire about satisfaction with the mental health service" 15 days before discharge and feedback to the practitioners to improve the service provided.

**Results:** This study is ongoing and shows significant and increasing satisfaction of patients together with a positive impact on personal and social functioning.

**Conclusions:** A good quality assessment helps to identify problem areas and ameliorate intervention.

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**SOCIO-CULTURAL AND PSYCHIATRIC ASPECTS OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDE**

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**Objective:** To present certain sociocultural and psychiatric aspects influencing attempted suicides.

**Method:** The history of 190 patients who had attempted suicide and treated at the Psychiatry Clinic in Prishtina between 1991 and 31 October 1996 were analysed and some statistical data was processed by the method of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ).

**Results:** The data analysis showed that female patients between the ages of 15 and 24 and 25 and 34 predominated. The unemployed, housewives and secondary school students dominated the analysis as far as professions were concerned. Medicaments, then organophosphoric substances and other means were the predominant means for the attempted suicides. Among the most frequent diagnostic categories, affective reactions were a cause of emotional conflict, neuroses, personality disorders as well as latent psychoses. The number of those who consumed alcohol or abused drugs was symbolic.

**Conclusions:** Among the significant factors in attempted suicides are broken-home syndrome, emotional conflicts and neuroses. We consider that the aim of the attempted suicide was no self-destruction but served as an "appeal" for help.