

References

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Generalized anxiety disorder among diabetic patients visiting gharyan-polyclinic in Libya during COVID-19 pandemic

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Aims. To estimate the prevalence of Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) in adult patients with diabetes mellitus (T1DM or T2DM) during COVID-19 pandemic.

Method. Random sample of 115 Adult Libyan patients (≥18 years) were drawn from 1200 Medical records of diabetic patients previously diagnosed in a primary care clinic (Gharyan polyclinic, South of Tripoli, West of Libya). Patients were recruited and diagnostically interviewed through outpatient visits and through Phone calls. Anxiety was assessed using Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item instrument (GAD-7), personal information, Co morbidities and History of COVID-19 infection within period of 3 weeks.

Result. The statistical analysis done by SPSS version 23, using ANOVA test. The GAD-7 scores ranged from 0 to 19 for the diabetic patient, 82 patients scores ranged from 0 to 4 with varying degrees of non-significant to subsyndromal symptoms of Generalized anxiety disorder, 24 patient with Mild GAD, 7 patients with moderate GAD and 2 patients with severe GAD. (P value = 0.000)

Conclusion. GAD is present in 28% of the patients who participated in the study. Additional epidemiological studies are needed to determine the prevalence of anxiety in the broader population of persons with diabetes.

Impact of online group studying for the MRCPsych A exam amongst international doctors logging-in from 7 countries

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Aims. Recently, global-remote group studying has been made possible via digital video conferencing platforms. In preparation for the December 2020 MRCPsych part A exam, a study group was formed comprising 30 International Medical Graduates (IMG) logging-in from different countries via 3 hour Zoom-study sessions hosted daily from 28th September until 12th December 2020 (1800-2100 GMT time). This study demonstrates the impact of online group study in preparation for the MRCPsych A exam for s via data collected through questionnaires.

Method. The data of the study were collected through the questionnaires given to the group study members containing a total of 17 questions, 5 of which were open-ended.

The participants totalled 30 International Doctors who responded to an advertisement to form an online study group

on Facebook. They logged-in for the sessions from seven different countries: Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Ireland, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. The participants represented different working grades including experiences in psychiatry ranging from 0 to 5 years.

Data were analysed using percentage. The answers given to the open-ended questions were each examined using descriptive interpretation methods.

Result. Thematic analysis demonstrated that online group study made learning faster and easier. 96.6% support using online study sessions for future exams citing that they fostered cooperation, respect for diverse opinions and motivation for regular studying. 93.1% and partly 6.9% found the experience enjoyable and enabled the cultivation of different ideas. Indeed, 89.7% relied on it as a big part of their preparation with 26 saying it contributed to their passing of the exam success.

Almost three quarter of participants in the group also forged friendships and a sense of trust. It also became a platform for expressing opinions comfortably and developing communication and interpersonal skills.

Different working hours and time zones represented a challenge with most linking in at odd hours. Cultural differences were ultimately accepted including aspects of delivery of information which made a few participants appear abrupt.

Conclusion. With the ease in which social media connects us on a global scale, online study groups connecting IMGs from various backgrounds and diverse cultures not only makes exam preparations stimulating and easier to pass but also fosters interpersonal skills and connections that would be an asset in the long run.

Glucose transporters in Alzheimer's disease

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Background. Physiological brain function depends on tight glucose regulation, including transport and phosphorylation, the first step in its metabolism. Impaired glucose regulation is increasingly implicated in the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Glucose hypometabolism in AD may be at least partly due to impaired glucose transport at the blood-brain barrier (BBB). Glucose transporters (GLUTs) are an integral component of the BBB. There is evidence of a significant reduction in vascular and non-vascular forms of GLUT1 and GLUT3 in AD brains compared to age-matched controls. Glucose transport, as well as phosphorylation, appears to be a rate limiting step for glucose metabolism in the brain. We have reviewed the literature on glucose transport abnormalities in AD and the effect such abnormalities have on the brain.

Method. Published literature between 1st January 1946 and 1st November 2019 was identified using EMBASE and MEDLINE databases and titles and abstracts were scanned. Human studies (autopsy and imaging) and data from animal models were included while reviews, letters and cellular or molecular studies were excluded from the search.

Result. Autopsy studies in AD patients show significant reductions in GLUT3 in areas of the brain closely associated with AD pathology. Patients with AD and diabetes showed greater reductions of GLUT1 and GLUT3. A longitudinal study showed