

Methods: The study was conducted on a random sample of 60 patients with type II diabetes (Group 1), who were outpatients in two Diabetes Centers of Northern Greece, and in 30 healthy controls (Group 2) We used the translated and validated versions of: 1) the international neuropsychiatric interview questionnaire (M.I.N.I. screen/DSM-IV), 2) the M.M.S.E., 3) the TAS-20 questionnaire for alexithymia, 4) the SCL-90-R symptoms auto-questionnaire, 5) the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) and 6) a protocol of demographic data.

Results: The statistical analysis of the data has yielded the following results: 1) in Group 1, there seems to be a high or very high statistical correlation between the rates of all 4 factors of alexithymia and all 11 sub-scales of SCL-90-R, 2) where alexithymia is concerned, in both Groups 1 and 2, the findings in all 4 factors are as follows: Total score $z(78)=-5.132$, $p<0.001$ / Factor 1 $z(78)=-5.553$, $p<0.001$ / Factor 2 $z(78)=-3.857$, $p<0.001$ / Factor 3 $t(78)=-3.825$, $p<0.001$.

Conclusions: The indexes of alexithymia in chronic patients with type II diabetes have a statistically significant higher frequency compared to healthy controls. The factors of alexithymia, as defined in the TAS-20 questionnaire, correlate in various ways with certain psychopathological conditions, as defined in the SCL-90-R questionnaire

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The role of early developmental and familial factors in the development of selective mutism: A case-control study

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Background and aims: The etiology of selective mutism (SM), a relatively rare psychiatric disorder of childhood characterized by consistent failure to speak in specific social situations despite having appropriate language skills has not been clarified. Although, number of biological and environmental factors have been identified as risk factors based on case studies or studies with small sample size, there were only few investigations with a case-control design. Our aim was to explore the role of several early developmental and psychosocial factors in the development of the disease by comparing patients with SM to a control group.

Methods: 37 children hospitalized due to SM between 1995 and 2005 were compared to 45 community controls in the same age range and similar sex ratio. Patients were evaluated by a comprehensive diagnostic assessment including an interview focusing on developmental history. In case of controls we used a self-rating version of the General Information Sheet a fully structured interview about the developmental history.

Results: Among the cases there were 24 (64.9%) girls and 13 (35.1%) boys. The mean age of the patients was 8.24 years. Among the 21 variables in 8 domains we found significant differences between the two groups in terms of speech development, frequency of divorce and moving, and education level of the parents.

Conclusions: Our case-control investigation with considerably large sample of children with SM confirmed those earlier findings that early neurodevelopmental problems along with environmental factors could render children vulnerable to development of SM.

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The stressors of nurses of critical care units

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Background: critical care units are the most sensitive professional units of hospital, and one of the stressors in nursing profession is

working in these units. Observing dying patients, doing more work, communicational problems and other environmental factors are the main stressors of these nurses. This study was performed to determine stressors of nurses working in critical care units of Ardabil hospitals.

Methods: This is a descriptive study. The study population was the all of nurses working in critical units of Ardabil hospitals, contains 48 nurses and all of them were selected for the sample. The mean for collecting data was questionnaire.

Results: in this study 46% of nurses mentioned that new experiences in profession is the first stressors and being not to able for decision-making about living and dying of patients is the second stressor.

Conclusion: of course knowing the stressors of nurses working directly with patient can decrease potential problems and increase quality and quantity of nursing care.

Keywords: critical care unit, nurses, stressor

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Pyridoxine (B6) for the treatment of premenstrual syndrome (PMS)

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Objective: A comparison between Pyridoxine (vitamin B6) and a placebo for the treatment of premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

Material and Methods: A double blind randomized clinical trial was performed on 160 university students who were suffering from PMS (according to the retrospective diagnostic criteria which had been recorded during the last 3 menstrual cycles). Then the patients were randomly assigned into two groups, and finally 94 patients who had finished the study were statistically analyzed.

In the Pyridoxine group (46 patients) vitamin B6 was prescribed at a dose of 40 mg twice daily (total 80 mg), and in the placebo group (48 patients) a tablet similar to vitamin B6 tablets in size, smell, shape and taste was prescribed 1 tablet twice daily. In both groups the tablets were started from the first day of the fourth menstrual cycle and continued for the next two cycles, and during these two cycles the symptoms were recorded.

Results: The severity of PMS in the second cycle of the treatment (in both groups) showed a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$, Pair T test) and the comparison between the two groups showed that the severity of PMS in the Pyridoxine group decreased more than the placebo group, which was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$, Student T Test) and this was because of the reduction in the psychiatric rather than somatic symptoms of PMS.

Conclusion: Regarding the effect of Pyridoxine in reducing the severity of PMS, it can be suggested as a treatment for PMS.

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The evaluation of the effectiveness of pyridoxine (vitamin B6) for the treatment of premenstrual syndrome

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