

Conclusion Studies of victimization of mentally ill did not draw the attention of researchers and clinicians in Arab world. This study proves that victimization is not uncommon among patients with schizophrenia; clinicians should include assessment for victimization of their patients as a routine work. The current study provides preliminary data for clinicians and policy makers to consider strategies to protect patients with various mental illnesses from being victimized.

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Study of self-perceived health in a clinical sample

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Introduction The assessment of self-perceived health provides an insightful clinical tool when it comes to addressing the subjective perception of social functioning, mental and physical health.

Objective To analyze self-perceived health in patients treated in a primary care clinic and its relationship with other clinical and socio-demographic variables.

Methods A randomized sample of 130 patients, aged 18 years or over, undergoing treatment in a primary care clinic was evaluated. Patients were interviewed following a self-perceived health scale as well as a scale for other clinical and socio-demographic variables. Clinical records were reviewed for prior psychiatric and somatic diagnoses.

Results Overall, the prevalence of somatic disorders in our sample was 92.3%, whilst psychiatric disorders were present in 23% of patients. Only 6% of the sample reported their mental health to be affected to some degree, while 67% declared their physical health to be damaged. Forty-three percent of the sample follows prescribed psychopharmacological treatment. Women showed lower self-perceived health and reported more psychiatric symptoms in accordance with higher actual prevalences of psychiatric disorders. Among those patients with a psychiatric illness, only two reported the will to search for mental health care, whilst most would prefer consulting their general practitioner.

Conclusions Less than half of the patients who have been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder consider their mental health to be affected. Among those who do report a self-perceived mental health concern, the majority would prefer consulting their general practitioner rather than a psychiatrist.

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Motives and behaviors of medical students (mis)using prescription stimulants

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Aims To estimate the prevalence of psychostimulant use in French medical undergraduate and postgraduate students, associated consumption behaviors and motives.

Design A population-based cross-sectional study using a self-administered online survey.

Participants A total of 1718 French students and physicians (mean age 26.84 ± 7.19 years, 37.1% male).

Measurements Self-reported lifetime use, motives, socio-demographic and academic features for other the counter (OTC), medically prescribed (MPP), and Illicit (IP) psychostimulant users.

Findings Lifetime prevalence of psychostimulant use was 33% (29.7% for OTC, 6.7% for MPP and 5.2% for IP). OTC consumption mainly aimed at increasing wakefulness during competitive exams preparation and internship. OTC consumption was twice more frequent among users of other psychostimulants (MPP and/or IP). Most of OTC consumers began their consumption during exam preparation. Corticoids were the most frequently consumed MPP (4.5%) before methylphenidate and modafinil (1.5% and 0.8%, respectively). Unlike corticoids, methylphenidate and modafinil prescriptions are tightly regulated in France. Motives for MPP consumption were increased academic performance/concentration–memory and wakefulness. In that respect, restrictions on methylphenidate and modafinil prescriptions seem to be effective at limiting misuse. Corticoids were mostly consumed by interns seeking for wakefulness. Overall, 5.2% of the subjects consumed at least once IP, mostly cocaine and amphetamine derivatives. They sought euphoria and/or novelty.

Conclusions Psychostimulant use is common among French undergraduate students, interns and postgraduate physicians. The type of drug used seems to depend mainly on product availability. Increased rates of corticoids consumption for wakefulness purposes suggest another potential public health problem, as corticoids may have severe side effects.

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The assessment of social disability in persons with a diagnosis of mental disorder. Preliminary data

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Social disability in persons diagnosed with mental disorder is one of the factors preventing them from achieving the broadly defined well-being, even when appropriate and effective treatment is applied. Improvement in the field of social disability is therefore one of the main challenges for the mental health and social welfare policy makers. The second version of the Groningen Social Disabilities Schedule (GSDS-II) is widely used in the assessment of social disability, however the relationship between its degree and many of the clinical and demographic factors have not been investigated thoroughly enough.

The objective of the study is to assess the degree of social disability using GSDS-II as well as to analyze the relationship between the degree of social disability and clinical, social and demographic factors, in patients with a mental disorder diagnosis of F20–F48 according to ICD-10, aged 18–65, in a day ward and an inpatient ward settings.

The paper presents the data gathered from a preliminary sample of 20 patients of both genders diagnosed with mental disorders who gave their informed consent to participate in the study, thus comprising 10% of the targeted total study sample.

Our study, performed on a larger, targeted sample, will provide a better insight into the social functioning of persons with a burden of