

Adult Adhd Screening in Alcohol-dependent Patients

A. Roberto¹, F. Palhavã²

¹Psychiatry, Hospital Garcia de Orta EPE, Almada, Portugal ; ²Psychiatry, Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Introduction: The association of ADHD and Substance Abuse has been a focus of research. Studies point to elevated rates of ADHD in patients with history of alcohol abuse or dependence.

Objectives: The main objective of this study was to assess the presence of ADHD in patients with history of alcohol abuse or dependence and investigate a possible relationship with consumption patterns and other mental comorbidities, including personality disorders.

Methods: We interviewed patients that were hospitalized, were attending the Day Hospital or were being followed in therapeutic groups in a Treatment and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit of the Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa. It was collected social and demographic data and applied the following scales: Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale (ASRS); Diagnostic Interview for ADHD in adults (DIVA 2.0); Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire for the DSM IV (PDQ4). Patients were also submitted to a psychiatric interview in order to assess the presence of other comorbidities and suicide attempts.

Results: 57 patients were evaluated, 80% were male; 63.2% obtained scores PDQ4 suggestive of personality disorder. A high percentage of patients had an history of consumption of other abuse substances and had comorbidity with depression and anxiety disorders. In ASRS scale, 33.3% had scores suggestive of ADHD.

Conclusions: Diagnosis of ADHD in patients with substance abuse is complex since there are similar symptoms that are present in other mental disorders. However, the presence of ADHD is associated with a more severe expression of addictive behaviors and a worse prognosis, hence the importance of its early diagnosis.