

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTERS AFFECTED BY CO-OCCURRING SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Roser Martinez Riera, Gerard Mateu Codina, Laura Diaz Digon, Claudio Castillo Buenaventura, Marta Torrens Melich
CAS Fòrum. Neuroscience and Addiction Institute (INAD). Parc de Salut Mar. Barcelona (Spain)

PURPOSE

To study the clinical characteristics of patients with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) comorbid with Non-Substance related Axis I or II Disorder, admitted to a brief dual diagnosis unit for suicidal ideation.

METHOD

Data on demographic, family, and clinical factors were gathered. A total of 187 patients, consecutively admitted to our dual diagnosis unit for suicidal ideation between September 2007 and May 2013, were included. Psychiatric Disorders, Substance Use (SUDs) and non-Substance Use Disorders (non-SUDs) were diagnosed according to DSM-IV criteria. Statistical analysis of data was performed using SPSS program.

RESULTS

From the whole sample, 39.6% were women, with a mean age of 40.25±8.8 years. The demographic, familial and somatic data are shown in Table 1 and clinical data in Table 2. The main SUDs diagnoses were alcohol (59.9%) and cocaine (48.7%). The distribution of SUDs in the sample are shown in Graph 1. The most frequent non-SUDs and Dual Diagnoses are shown in Table 3. The 17.6% of the sample showed comorbid diagnoses in Axis I and Axis II, whereas 50.3% had no diagnosis on Axis I.

Table 1. Demographic, family and somatic data

Sex (%)	Women	39.6
Mean Age (years+DS)		40.25±8.8
Education Level (%)	Primary Education	41.4
	Secondary Education or Higher	58.6
Coexistence Data (%)	Live with family	40.6
	Live with company or in an institution	27.2
	Live alone	20.9
	Have no home	11.3
Marital Status (%)	Married	62.4
Employment Situation (%)	Unemployed	86.7
Legal Problems (%)		30.1
Serology (%)	HIV	12.8
	HCV	28.3
	HBV	21.4
	HIV+HCV	11.9
Family History of Psychiatric Disorders non-related with Substance Use (%)		35.8
Family History of Substance Use Disorders (%)		43.9

Table 2. Clinical History Data

Previous History of Suicide Attempts (%)	63.6
Previous History of Physical Aggression (%)	27.8
Taking regular Drug Treatment the previous 6 months	28.3
Receiving Psychiatric Follow-up the previous 6 months	33.2
Mean Age of onset of Psychiatric Disorder non-related with Substance Use	26.6±11.4
Mean Age of the First Admission to a Psychiatric Unit	32.76±11.2
Number of Previous Admissions to a Psychiatric Unit	2.7±3.2

Graph 1. Substance Use Disorders (%)

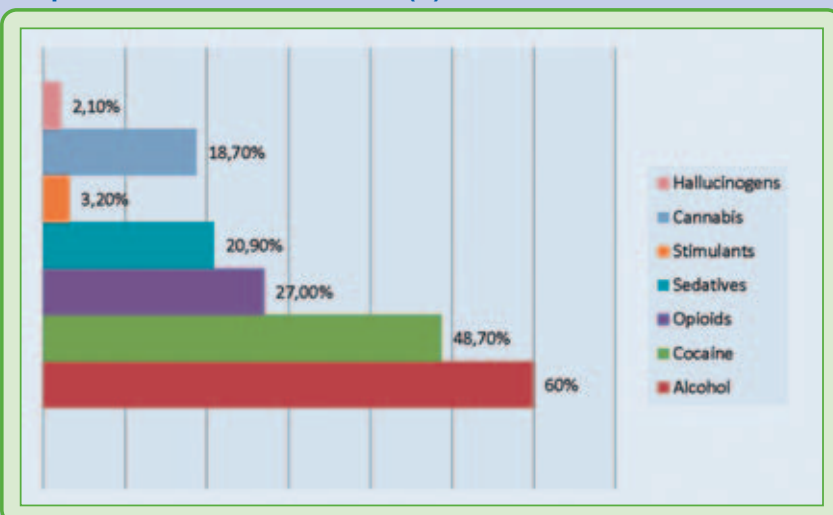


Table 3. Psychiatric non-Substance Use Disorders and Dual Diagnoses

The most frequent non-SUDs	The most frequent dual diagnosis, as for Axis I	The most frequent dual diagnosis, as for Axis II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Disorder (58.3%) • Adjustment Disorder (15%) • Depressive Disorder (13.9%) • Psychosis (9.6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressive Disorder-Alcohol (9.1%) • Adjustment Disorder-Alcohol (7.5%) • Adjustment Disorder-Cocaine (3.7%) • Psychotic Disorder-Cocaine (3.7%) • Depressive Disorder-Cocaine (3.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Disorder-Alcohol (50%) • Personality Disorder-Cocaine (29.8%) • Personality Disorder-Heroin (11.4%)

CONCLUSIONS

In a Dual Population, alcohol and cocaine are the most frequent SUD disorders in patients with suicidal ideation, and the most frequent non-SUD diagnoses are Personality Disorders, whereas Mood Disorders are relatively less represented. Also, factors as sex, previous suicide attempts and not doing regular treatment could be associated with suicidal ideation in these patients.

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