

Gender differences in psychosis with co-occurring substance use disorder

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Introduction

Women with substance use disorders, ask for less often and later therapeutic help and when they do, the overall impact of the disease is more severe. Some studies describe gender differences in psychotic disorders, but if we add a comorbid substance use disorder, may be added to the presentation of the disease other relevant differences.

Objectives

To evaluate the sociodemographics and clinical characteristics of inpatients with psychosis and comorbid substance use disorder according to gender.

Patients and Methods

All the 446 patients with a dual diagnosis of psychosis and substance use disorder, consecutively admitted to a Dual Diagnosis Unit in the period between September 2007 and May 2013, have been included. Sociodemographic, family and clinical data were gathered in an ad hoc protocol at the moment of the admission. 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 (N=446, age 37.85±9.6), 330 were male and 116 female. Differences between groups for demographic and clinical data are described in Table 1. We can note that women were older than men, had worse organic status, higher psychopathological severity at the time of discharge and higher prevalence of primary psychosis.
- Differences between the two groups in the prevalence of different types of primary psychosis are described in Figure 1.
- Figure 2 compares the prevalence of different SUDs between men and women.

Table 1. Comparative data between both women group and men group of Dual Psychosis

	Women N=116	Men N=330	P
Sociodemographic data			
Age, years (mean, SD)	39.5±10.2	37.2±9.4	0.027**
Marital status, % Married	56.4	27.6	0.001**
Level of education, %			
No Education	4.5	1.9	NS
No High school diploma	61.3	53.1	
High school diploma or college	34.2	45.1	
Employment, % Employed	5.2	13.6	0.016**
Legal Problems, %	16.4	37.2	0.003**
Clinical Data			
Serologies, %			
HIV positive	21.6	8.8	0.001**
HCV positive	32.8	18.8	0.003**
HBV positive	22.4	13.3	0.026**
Coinfection HIV-HCV	21.6	8	0.001**
Type of Psychosis, %			
Primary	94.8	88.2	0.048**
Induced	5.2	11.8	
Parental mental illness background, %	55.6	50.2	NS
Parental substance abuse background, %	70.3	45.8	<0.001**
Previous history of suicide attempts, %	48.7	27.1	0.001**
Previous history of physical aggression, %	33.3	64.2	<0.001**
Global Assessment Scale(GEP)			
Income	17±5.7	18.2±6	0.07*
Discharge	12.5±5.6	11.04±5	0.017**
Income-Discharge	5.7±3.5	5.57±3.4	NS

*p<0.8>0.5; a trend to differences. **P<0.05; significant differences. NS: no significant differences

Figure 1. Comparative data on comorbid diagnoses on different types of Psychosis

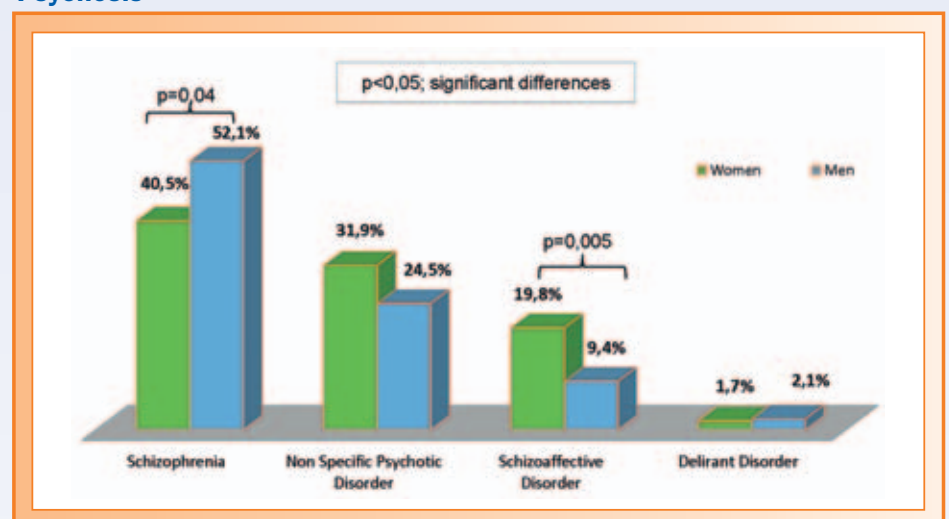
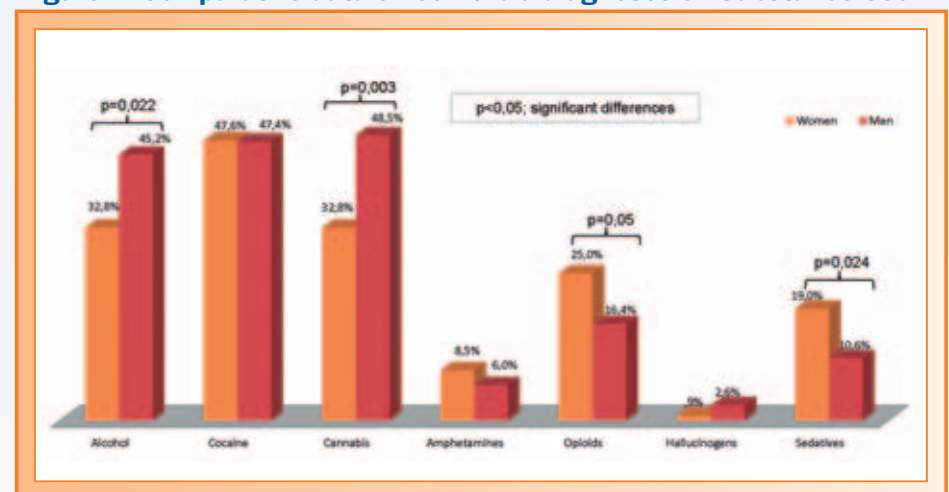


Figure 2. Comparative data on comorbid diagnoses on Substance Use



Conclusion

As we have seen in our study, women with psychosis and comorbid substance use disorders, have a different presentation from men, showing higher clinical and organic severity, and higher prevalence of substance use as opioids and sedatives. It seems that women with this dual pathology may be particularly severe and could need closer assessment.

References

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