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Psychiatric comorbidities in patients with epilepsy among Juvenile group years old 12-18 age

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Abstract

Background: Psychiatric disorders have been recognized as common comorbidities among patients with epilepsy.

Aim: This study aimed to explore the prevalence of psychiatric comorbidities in patients with epilepsy among Juvenile group age 12-18 years old at governmentmetal Juvenile center operated by Ministry of Social Development (MOSD).

Method and design: Descriptive and retrospective study design carried out for the period from January 2020 to December 2022. All patients aged 12-18 years old.

Conclusion: There is a significant association between EEG abnormalities and the presence of psychiatric disorders was observed $P = 0.027$.

Keywords: Psychiatric disorders, epilepsy, comorbidities, juvenile epilepsy, EEG abnormalities

Introduction

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that affects millions of people worldwide. It is characterized by recurrent seizures, which can have a significant impact on a person's quality of life. Among juveniles aged 12-18 years old, epilepsy can be particularly challenging, as it can interfere with their social, academic and personal development. Moreover, individuals with epilepsy are at increased risk of developing psychiatric comorbidities, such as depression, anxiety and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which can further complicate their difficulties.

Psychiatric disorders have been recognized as common comorbidities among patients with epilepsy. There is a significant relation between psychiatric disorders among patients with epilepsy. The prevalence of psychiatric disorders among patients with epilepsy was reported and varies between 19% to 80%. Moreover, most studies regarding psychiatric disorders among patients with epilepsy were conducted in Western countries. Since sociocultural context is also a significant contributing factor of psychiatric disorders.

This study will explore the prevalence and impact of psychiatric comorbidities in patients with epilepsy among the juvenile population aged 12-18 years old.

Aim of the Study

This work aimed to explore the prevalence of psychiatric comorbidities with epilepsy among juvenile group age 12-18 years old at a governmental juvenile rehabilitation center operated by The Ministry of Development in Jordan. Furthermore, to determine if there is any significant association between participants demographic variables, psychiatric disoreders and the presence of EEG abnormalities.

Methodology

Descriptive and retrospective study design carried out for the period from January 2020 to December 2022. All patients aged 12-18 years old. Records have been reviewed for all patients whose have been face to face interviewed by psychologists and psychiatric physicians for diagnosis shorthanded to patients diagnosed with psychiatric disorders then electroencephalogram (EEG) done to them and diagnosed with epilepsy with neurologists. (EEG) reports were collected and divided to normal and abnormal EEG findings.

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Available demographic data were obtained from their records. EEG reports were available in participants medical files.

Available demographic data were collected from from participants records available from social specialist files. Participants with psychological disorders and have no EEG record in their medical file were excluded.

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 23 considering P - value more then 0.05 is statistically significant.

Results

A total of 182 were enrolled in this study. Demographic characteristics of the study sample are demonstrated in table 1. All participants were male, age 12-18 years old and single. Majority of included participants 79% had low

education level, with primary or lower levels, 86.4% had low income with their families, 63.7% had separated parents, and all were unemployed. 65 patients were interviewed by physicians, 33.8% had psychiatric disorders and EEG was done for them, 40.9% of them had epileptically EEG records and medications were prescribed by medical neurologists. However there is no significant association between the educational level, family status and the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among patients with epilepsy, while there is a significant relationship according to family income level and the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among patients with epilepsy. Results demonstrated in table 2 shows that there is a significant association between EEG abnormalities and the presence of psychiatric disorders was observed (P = 0.027).

Table 1: Participants' Socio-demographic characteristics and their association with psychiatric disorders and epileptically EEG record.

		Seen by psychologists N=182	Referrals and seen by physicians N=65 (36%)	Psychiatric disorders			Diagnosed patients with psychiatric disorders	
				Yes N=22 (33.8%)	No N=43 (66.2%)	P-value	N=9 (40%)	P-value
Education level	Primary school or lower	144	48	16	32	0.45	4	0.23
	High school and above	38	17	6	11		5	
Income level	low	157	56	19	36	0.52	8	0.09
	Moderate to high	25	9	4	6		1	
Family status	normal	66	23	8	13	0.32	2	0.18
	separated	116	42	14	30		7	

Table 2: Association between EEG abnormalities and the presence of psychiatric disorders.

		Psychiatric Disorders	
		N=22	P-value
EEG abnormalities	Present	9	0.027
	Absent	13	

Conclusion

There is a significant association between EEG and the presence of psychiatric disorders among juvenile participants of 12 -18 years old. Hence health care professionals should keep attention and taking care of patients with epilepsy because of the increased risk of developing psychiatric comorbidities.

Recommendations

- Future studies are recommended with different settings and further study designs including several further factors including epileptically medication effect and the improvement of patients' psychosis.
- Have future EEG records for all patients with psychological disorders.
- Using a valid structured interview tool and criteria in participants selection in the future.

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