



Psychopathology of Epileptic Children's Parents

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Abstract

Introduction and Objective: Although it was reported that epileptic children's parents experienced a great deal of stress, few studies were conducted on the psychopathology of epileptic children's parents with respect to personality disorders. The aim of current study was to determine the prevalence of personality disorders in the parents of epileptic children.

Methodology: This is a cross-sectional study. Using the convenience sampling method, 288 parents of epileptic children (142 women and 146 men) were selected from the patients visiting the clinics of neurology affiliated with Tabriz University of Medical Sciences. Epilepsy was diagnosed by a neurologist. MCMI-III was used to evaluate parents' personal profiles.

Findings: In this study, 288 parents participated. The minimum and maximum parents' ages were 23 and 62, respectively. Among the clinical patterns of personality, most prevalence of disorders were depression, avoidance, and dependent with 25.3%, 14.6% and 12.2%, respectively. In the severe personality pathology, the prevalence of disorders were 6.3% for borderline and 3.1% for schizotypal. Considering the clinical symptoms, the highest prevalence of disorders were dysthymia with 19.4%, anxiety disorders with 12.2%, and somatoform with 6.3%. The lowest prevalence was for alcoholism with 1.7% and manic with 2.4%. Regarding the severe clinical syndrome, the prevalence of thought disorder was 7.3%, major depression 4.9%, and delusional disorder 4.2%.

Conclusion: The parents of epileptic children had the highest prevalence of personality disorders and suffered from personality pathology in intrapersonal and interpersonal aspects. These findings indicated the importance of psychiatric interventions in epileptic children's parents.

Keywords: Psychopathology, Parents, Epilepsy, Prevalence, Personality Disorders

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