

RISK FACTORS FOR PARASUICIDAL BEHAVIOR AMONG ALCOHOLICS

Y.E. Razvodovsky

Psychiatry, Grodno State Medical University, Grodno, Belarus

Introduction: It is well recognized that alcohol dependence is among the major risk factors that are associated with suicidal behavior.

Objectives: This study was design to extend our understanding of alcohol-parasuicide relationship by examining some of the socio-demographic and mental health characteristics of alcohol dependent suicide attempters.

Methods: The relationship between alcohol dependence and parasuicide was studied among patients admitted to a Gomel regional psychiatric hospital (Belarus). A total 117 male alcohol dependent in-patients (ADPS) and a comparison group of 128 non-alcohol dependent parasuicidal in-patients (NADPS) were investigated. The socio-demographic and mental health profile of each group was analyzed.

Results: Risk factors for parasuicide were acute alcohol intoxication, social dysfunction and psychiatric symptoms. Results show that, compared with NADPS patients, those with an alcohol dependence were older (32.1 vs. 29.3; $p < 0,001$), unemployed (46.2% vs. 31.3%; $p < 0,001$), or with a past history of deliberate self-harm (21.4% vs. 14.1%; $p < 0,01$). Comorbid psychiatric disorders were presented in 58.1% of ADPS and in 69.2% of NADPS patients. The prevalence of personality disorders (23.4% vs. 17.1%) and schizophrenia (10.9% vs. 6.8%) were higher among NADPS compared with ADPS patients. Consumption of alcohol at the time of the parasuicidal act was reported more commonly by ADPS than by NADPS (70.1% vs. 45.31%; $p < 0,001$).

Conclusions: These findings are consistent with previous research indicating a causal role for acute alcohol intoxication in parasuicidal behavior among alcohol dependent individuals.