

Kager A, et al (2000). Smoking: An Addiction of Mentally Ill Patients? *The European Journal of Psychiatry*; 14 (2): 69-77.

Abstract

Previous studies have reported that the prevalence of smoking is higher in psychiatric patients compared to healthy controls. The aim of the study was to prove this hypothesis and correlate smoking patterns with diagnosis, clinical data and inpatient-out-patient status. The subjects were 419 psychiatric patients. Diagnosis, global performance (GAF), severity of illness (CGI), sociodemographic data, and smoking habits were documented. In this study sample 58% of the patients are smokers, significantly more smokers compared to the average Austrian population (27.5%). The highest smoking rates were found in patients with substance related disorders (74% males, 72% females). The lowest prevalence of smoking was observed in organic disorders. Smoking was significantly correlated with age, gender, marital status, hospitalizations, lower income, unemployment, and dental problems. Smoking was not associated with inpatient or outpatient status. The results highlight the importance of smoking prevention. Future research needs to focus on reason for addictive behaviours.

Key Words: SMOKING; PSYCHIATRY; INPATIENTS; OUTPATIENTS.