

Incidence of Smoking Rates and Relapse During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2022.249

Aims. Along with the numerous structural and cultural changes in healthcare brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has had an overwhelming psychosocial impact on marginalized communities. Those with substance use disorders (SUD) are a particularly vulnerable group as they are more susceptible to infections and now have less access to healthcare. Smoking cigarettes is known to increase risk of respiratory tract infections due to suppression of respiratory function and impairment of the immune system. It is important to study the smoking rates and relapses over the course of the pandemic to observe whether the increased risk of COVID infection in smokers and the psychosocial stress of the lockdown have affected the behavior.

Methods. We searched databases including PubMed, PsycArticles, and Cochrane Library using applicable keywords for Substance-Related Disorders, Smoking, and the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. 69 articles from the results were reviewed, out of which 1 was a meta-analysis and 1 was a systematic review. Other reviews and papers were also consulted to consider case studies and smaller group analyses.

Results. The results of the analysis showed that COVID-19 lockdowns have been negatively affecting those who struggle with substance use disorders, especially that of tobacco use. Evidence suggests a surge of addictive behaviors (both new and relapse) including behavioral addiction over the two years. Recent studies have noted an increase of tobacco use during the pandemic. In some studies, smoking frequency numbers remained stable, and quit attempts decreased.

Conclusion. The psychosocial changes brought on by the pandemic have increased the incidence of smoking frequency and relapse in ex-smokers. This might be due to the increased financial, social, and physical stress, and due to the increased difficulty in accessing healthcare services due to the lockdown. Other stressors contributing to increased smoking could be the stress of contracting a fatal disease, possibility of loss of employment, prolonged confinement, and feeling of boredom. Smoking-related behaviors also increase the risk for contracting the infection due to frequent physical interactions to purchase cigarettes, hand-to-mouth contact when smoking, and increased use of communal smoking places. COVID-19 and addiction are the two pandemics which concurrently can cause a major public health threat. It is important to make the public aware of the increased COVID-19 infection risk attributed to smoking. Hospitals should also resume de-addiction services and provide easy access to advice, support, and pharmacotherapy to those in need.

Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review of Cohort Studies

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2022.250

Aims. The aim of this systematic review is to identify and appraise pharmacological options available for management of ADHD in pregnant women and adverse effects of ADHD medications on pregnancy and foetus (malformations or long-term effects).

Methods. Systematic review of prospective or retrospective cohort studies, available on this topic till September 2021 after PubMed and MEDLINE search, carried out by 2 reviewers independently. The preliminary search was conducted in March 2021, though the reviewers carried out timely cross-referencing as required. All cohort studies except those with ambiguous methodology were included. The data were further extracted using Microsoft Excel after Quality Assessment was completed using NewCastle Ottawa Scale. A narrative synthesis was undertaken as meta-analysis was not feasible owing to heterogeneity between studies included.

Results. Eighteen Cohort studies were included (N = 28227 pregnant women with ADHD) of which 16 were deemed as good quality. Multiple confounders were identified.

The review noted that use of stimulants/non-stimulants reduced symptoms and improved functionality in these expectant mothers. Findings from our review overall indicate low risk of developing malformations with ADHD medications, with only Methylphenidate (notably cardiac) and Modafinil showing slightly increased though statistically significant risk. We also noted slightly increased risk for reduced Apgar scores, abortions on maternal request, pre-eclampsia and preterm births. There was no conclusive association noted between neuro-developmental delay or future ADHD in baby/child.

Conclusion. A case-by-case approach needs to be adopted for every patient, looking at how ADHD affects daily functioning and balancing that against adverse pregnancy outcomes. Also, innovative practices like drug holidays, as required medications, drug free trial while planning pregnancy etc. will help practitioners streamline the treatment of this group of patients better. Issues like research being restricted to certain countries, small sample size, record-based analysis, issues in ascertaining adherence, confounding factors, ethical conundrums etc. were noted.

Self-Rating Recovery in Forensic Settings: Associations Between Patients Views of Their Own Recovery, and Measures of Violence Risk and Symptoms

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2022.251

Aims. The aim of this study was to ascertain the correlations between patients' views of their recovery and clinicians' views of patients recovery, symptoms and risk, in a cohort of patients in the National Forensic Service Dundrum (NFMHS).

Methods. A cross sectional study was performed of all inpatients in the NFMHS Dundrum. The self-rated Dundrum tool was offered to all 96 in-patients and completed by 64. Clinician rated measures of violence risk (HCR-20), programme completion (Dundrum-3), recovery (Dundrum-4), symptoms (PANSS) and functioning (GAF MIRECC) were rated. ANOVA and concordance ratings were calculated using SPSS

Results. A total of 64 patients agreed to participate, of whom 10 were female. The self-rated Dundrum-3 correlated with the staff rated Dundrum-3 (0.471, $p < 0.001$). The self-rated Dundrum-4