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**Original article:**

**Other psychiatric comorbidities in male patients of alcohol dependence syndrome: a cross sectional study**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Psychiatric complaints in alcoholism can be of three types- alcohol–related symptoms and signs; alcohol–induced psychiatric syndromes; and independent psychiatric disorders that co–occur with alcoholism. The third type is usually conceptualized as ‘dual diagnosis’- an extremely heterogeneous group to have poor prognosis in patients of alcohol dependence syndrome. A thorough assessment of this was sought in this study among the patients of Rohilkhand region of U.P. (India).

**Materials and Methods:** A total of 100 male patients of alcohol dependence syndrome visiting Psychiatry outpatient clinic were enrolled with the purposive sampling technique. The patients were free from alcohol related withdrawal or intoxication as well as alcohol induced psychiatric conditions. Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview-Plus version (MINI-Plus) was administered to find out different independent psychiatric disorders in the patients. Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ) was applied to assess severity of dependence.

**Results:** On MINI-Plus, there were two kinds of psychiatric diagnoses- current and lifetime. Overall 47% of the patients had one or more co-morbid psychiatric diagnoses on MINI-Plus. Broadly, following diagnostic categories were found: Mood disorder – 24%, Anxiety disorder – 14%, Adjustment disorder – 3%, Psychotic disorder – 6%, and Somatoform disorder – 2%.In 77% of the patients, alcohol dependence syndrome was of moderate severity.

**Conclusion:** Comorbidity of other psychiatric disorders in patients of alcohol dependence syndrome is a common problem. The results of this study are in line of many different research works both in India and abroad. A proper address of this issue is important for management, better outcome and policy making in patients of alcohol use disorders.

**Key words:** Comorbidity, Psychiatric disorders, Alcohol Dependence Syndrome