Comorbid mental disorders with alcohol use disorder: results from the New South Wales inpatient data.

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine comorbid mental disorders in alcohol users and to determine relationships between alcohol-use disorder and common mental disorders. The data were from part of the 2005/06 NSW’s Inpatient Statistic Data Collection. All the data were coded using the International Classification for Diseases-version 10-Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) codes. Statistical extraction and analysis were performed using SAS. Alcohol-use disorder was found in 25,728 cases in a total of 1,604,743 hospital admissions and, of these 10,701 (41.5%) admissions had at least one comorbid mental disorder. A whole spectrum of mental disorder was generated. The common comorbid mental diseases were major depressive disorder (7%), reaction to severe stress and adjustment disorder (4%), personality disorder (3.5%), schizophrenia (3%) and bipolar affective disorder (1.8%). Comorbidity rates of these conditions were found to be similar in both genders. Chi-square test showed that alcohol-use disorder was significantly associated with these conditions (p<0.001). A high risk of developing major depressive disorder was found in age group 60 – 69 years (OR =12), anxiety disorder in age group 30-39 (OR= 6), severe stress and adjustment disorders in age group 30 – 69 (OR = 12), personality disorders in age group 30-39 (OR=13), schizophrenia in age group 30-39 and bipolar disorder in age group 50-59 (OR=7). This study for the first time unveils the full profile of comorbid mental disorders in the NSW hospital inpatients suffering from alcohol-use disorder and confirms that alcohol-use disorder is significantly associated with depression, stress, personality disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Keys: Alcohol, Mental disorders, Public health.
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