

Abstract

Introduction: Results of previous studies have shown a significant association between alcohol abuse and eating disorders which often co-occur as a comorbidity. The co-occurrence of these diseases brings significant medical, social, and psychological complications and predicts a worse course of both disease and outcomes.

Objectives: The aim of this thesis is to verify the association between the alcohol abuse and eating disorders by detecting the prevalence of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder in women who are receiving the treatment for alcohol abuse.

Methods: The survey includes 51 women hospitalized for alcohol abuse in PN Bohnice. The data were obtained during the questionnaire survey using the Munich Eating Disorder Questionnaire (Munich ED-Quest) and the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), supplemented by socio-demographic questions. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics in SPSS.

Results: In total, 25.5% of respondents suffer from eating disorders at some point. Currently, 9.8% of women with an average age of 38.6 years with a median of 40 years suffer from eating disorder. In the past, 23,5% of respondents were affected by eating disorders. For the current period, 1.96% of women have met the diagnostic criteria for anorexia nervosa and 15.7% for periods in the past. The prevalence of mental bulimia is 5.9% for the present, and 9.8% for the past period. The binge eating disorder was detected in one respondent (1.96%), who met the criteria for both current and past disorder. The lifetime prevalence of anorexia nervosa is 15.7%, and the prevalence of bulimia nervosa is 11.8%.

Conclusion: The results suggest that the prevalence of eating disorders is significantly higher among women treated for alcohol abuse than in the general population. At the same time, however, they are not as high as shown in some of the previous studies. Increasing vigilance of the healthcare staff is a good strategy to minimize complications and increase the effectiveness of the treatment of both diseases.

Key words: alcohol abuse – eating disorders – comorbidity – anorexia nervosa – bulimia nervosa