Chronic Alcoholism among Women versus their Quality of Life

HUDÁKOVÁ, A., MAGUROVÁ, D.
Faculty of Health Professions, Prešov University, Slovak Republic


BACKGROUND: Alcoholism among women is showing a growing tendency in society and has a serious negative impact on the families of dependent women. Using a survey carried out in a selected medical facility, we ascertain the impact of alcoholism on the quality of life of these women.

AIMS: Our aim was to find how chronic alcoholism affects specific areas of the life of women aged 18–60 years.

DESIGN AND MEASUREMENTS: The survey was conducted in the period December 2009 – February 2010 at the First and Second Psychiatric Departments of the J. A. Reiman University Hospital and Clinic in Prešov.

PARTICIPANTS: The questionnaire was designed for patients diagnosed with chronic alcoholism and the average age of our sample was 45 years.

RESULTS: Out of the total number of respondents, up to 30 per cent of the women reported that their quality of life was impaired a great deal. The frequency of experiencing negative feelings occurred in 70 per cent of the women, as confirmed by clinical observations in psychiatric care. Only 36 per cent of the women were satisfied with their families (environment); their disease has a negative impact on the financial situation in their families.

CONCLUSIONS: Our respondents – chronic alcoholics – showed impaired quality of life in the social domain. The most serious problems were discovered in the domains of personal relationships and finance.

KEY WORDS: QUALITY OF LIFE – WOMEN – ALCOHOLISM – ADDICTION – MOTIVATION

Submitted: 26 / FEBRUARY / 2011
Accepted: 7 / JUNE / 2011

Address for correspondence: Anna Hudáková, Ph.D. / aahudak@gmail.com / Faculty of Health Professions, Prešov University, Partizánska 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovak Republic