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Association between Severity of Cannabis Dependence and Depression

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ABSTRACT

Objective. The aim of the current study was to investigate the relationship between self-reported severity of cannabis dependence and symptoms of depression. **Method.** The lifetime diagnoses of depression and cannabis misuse (abuse and/or dependence) were obtained from 50 participants recruited from the general community, using a self-completed diagnostic interview (CIDI-Auto 2.1). The lifetime severity of cannabis dependence was established using a standard questionnaire, Severity of Dependence Scale (SDS). **Results.** Of the 19 participants with mental illness diagnoses, 14 (74%) reported depression symptoms. The 14 participants with depression diagnoses had significantly more cannabis misuse diagnoses and significantly higher SDS scores compared to those without mental illness diagnoses (N = 31). SDS scores significantly predicted presence or absence of CIDI depression diagnoses with a 69% overall rate of correct predictions. As SDS scores increased the odds of classification into depressed versus non-depressed groups was 1.3 (95% C.I. 1.02-1.57). **Conclusion.** The presence of lifetime depression symptoms is associated with higher lifetime severity of cannabis dependence and more lifetime cannabis misuse symptoms in otherwise healthy research volunteers.

KEYWORDS

Severity of Cannabis Dependence, Depression, CIDI-Auto 2.1, SDS

Cite this paper

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