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How Does Medication Affect Social Interaction and Academic Achievement in Patients of ADHD

Areen Abu Ghazaleh¹, Sama Abu Hamed¹, Dr. Maisa Al Nabulsi²

¹ Faculty of Pharmacy, AlQuds University, Jerusalem, Palestine.

² Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, AlQuds University, Jerusalem, Palestine.

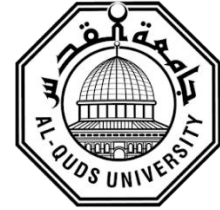
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Background: ADHD is a well-known and widespread neuropsychological disorder that affects mainly school aged children. On the other hand, there is lack of studies concerning its; prevalence in East Jerusalem.

Objectives:

1. to illustrate the effect of methylphenidate on diagnosed children with ADHD (educational and social interaction).
2. To estimate the prevalence of ADHD in elementary schools in east Jerusalem.

Methods: Both electronic and paper-based questionnaires were distributed over 23 elementary schools (boys and girls) in east Jerusalem. The sample size was (n=100) and the inclusion criteria : diagnosis with ADHD And/or not taking methylphenidate. Questionnaires were completed by social workers and teachers of the schools. Questionnaires were distributed during February and march 2022.



Results: Most of the sample were girls (61%). As high as 80% take pharmacological treatment (methylphenidate and 20% are medications free. More than Half of the sample have good compliance (58.6%). The percentage of non-adherent pupils (41.4%). 75% of medicated children showed significant improvement in educational achievement, completing missions at school and enhancing in their attention, 64,3% of them had complete home missions. Concerning communication skills, 64% were able to interact with their peers and society and 57% were able to make new friendships.

Conclusion: Most of the children had significant improvements in both academic and social patterns of life. Noticeable advances in Communication skills were also observed following medication administration. However, annoying side effects including loss of appetite (44%) and abdominal colic (&%) affected compliance towards the prescribed methylphenidate. Moreover, some parents still feel uncomfortable with using methylphenidate " Ritalin "

Research Keywords: ADHD, East Jerusalem, Academic achievement, socializing, prevalence.