



Research paper

Comparison of Impulsivity and Emotional Lability in Adults Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder with and without Pornography

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to compare impulsivity and emotional lability in student with ADHD symptoms with and without pornography and students without ADHD with pornography and normal people. The statistical population included students in Tehran with and without ADHD with and without pornography. A sample of 500 students divided into 4 groups of 125 subjects based on the cutoff value: 1, 2 ADHD with/without pornography and 3,4 No-ADHD with/ without pornography. ADHD Adult Questionnaires, Problematic Use of Pornography, Impulsivity, and Emotional Lability were used. Data were analyzed through multivariate analysis of variance test. The results showed that impulsivity and emotional lability in the group 1 is significantly higher than the group 2, also the groups 3 are more than the normal group. It can be concluded that impulsivity and emotional lability have important implications in psychopathology and prevention of ADHD and pornography.

Keywords: Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, emotional lability, impulsivity, pornography

Introduction

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common disorder characterized by problems with attention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. This disorder leads to severe violations in the lives of the affected individuals. Among severe violations caused by ADHD is problems of sexuality. In addition, the feeling of compulsion through impulsivity in these individuals which is related to pornography (Gagnon, et al., 2022). Put it differently, impulsivity is defined in sufferers with a low tolerance for failure and prioritizing short-term rewards, who can immerse themselves in satisfying immediate impulses, a decision that leads to an increase in addictive behaviors (Paasche, et al., 2019). Also, due to weaker self-regulation and greater emotional lability, individuals with ADHD may be tempted to engage in addictive behaviors, and based on the acquired readiness model, individuals turn to addictive behaviors such as pornography use to feel a positive urge because they believe the substances have positive effects and a negative urge to avoid negative emotions (Helfer, et al., 2019). On the other hand, the potential health risks of pornography are not as well understood as those of alcohol and tobacco, while some studies have proved the relationship

between pornography and stress, anxiety, and depression (Volk, et al., 2019). Despite these conceptualizations and limitation, some studies reported a weak relationship between pornography and impulsivity and emotional lability (Ince, et al., 2021). As opposed the numerous researches on ADHDs childhood and adolescence, the absence of research on adulthood area and Comorbidity disorders with ADHD is obvious. Therefore, the hypothesis of this study was to compare impulsivity and emotional lability in college student with ADHD symptoms with and without pornography and students without ADHD with pornography and normal people.

Method

The present study was a cross-sectional study with an ex post facto design. The statistical population consisted of students from national universities in Tehran with and without ADHD with and without pornography and normal people. The research sample was 500 students who were selected on the bases of cutoff scores in 4 groups of 125 people: 1) with ADHD with pornography, 2) with ADHD without pornography, 3) without ADHD with pornography 4) normal group. To collect data, four instruments were used. The entry criteria were age (between 20 - 30 years). the data were analyzed by multivariate analysis of variance using SPSS24 software.

Tools

The World Health Organization Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale (ASRS): This scale with 18 items was developed by Adler, et al. (2006), with 2 subscales, reported internal consistency of 0.84-and its predictive validity with ADHD scales rating was 0.89. In present study the internal consistency was 0.93.

Problematic use of Pornography (PPUS-P): This scale with 12 items was designed by kor, et al. (2014), with 4 subscales, reported internal consistency of 0.91-and its predictive validity with Internet pornography use (IPU) was 0.56. In present study the internal consistency was 0.96.

The Barrat Impulsivity(BIS-11): This scale with 30 items was designed by Patton, et al. (1995), with 3 subscales, reported internal consistency of 0.80-0.82-and its predictive validity with BIS-10 was 0.98. In present study the internal consistency was 0.87.

Affective Lability Scale-Short Form(ALS-SF): This scale with 30 items was designed by Oliver & Simons. (2004), with 4 subscales, reported internal consistency of 0.90-and its predictive validity with (ALS-LF) was 0.94. In present study the internal consistency was 0.93.

Results

The results of demographic characteristics show that there is no difference between the average age of the four groups ($F = 0.76, P = 0.51$) and the frequency of their education level ($X^2 = 11.36, P = 0.50$), but there is a difference between the frequency of gender in the four groups ($X^2 = 43.14, P > 0.001$), and the frequency of males with ADHD is higher than that of females. Table 1 show the comparison of the mean and standard deviation of the research variables in four groups.

Table 1. Results of multivariate analysis of variance of impulsivity and affective lability

Variables	ADHD with pornography		ADHD without pornography		no ADHD with pornography		no ADHD no pornography	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Motor impulsiveness	22.98	4.22	18.75	3.72	22	4.85	16.55	3.36
Un planning impulsiveness	24.85	4.57	22.83	4.25	22.61	4.34	19.61	3.96
cognitive impulsiveness	22.74	3.70	18.34	3.39	21.62	4.09	13.21	2.91
Total- impulsivity	70.58	8.53	59.93	8.37	65.74	8.94	49.37	7.44
Anxiety. Depression	8.86	3.03	6.50	3.21	8.47	4.05	2.13	2.33
Depression. Elation	15.22	4.42	11.14	5.21	12.46	5.07	4.88	4.54
Anger	7.59	3.56	4.77	3.21	7.61	4.26	1.72	2.25
Total- Affective Lability	31.49	8.49	22.41	9.49	28.46	9.52	8.73	7.17

The data was checked for presumptions. The results showed that all assumptions were met for use of MANOVA to analyze the data. Table 2 shows that the average of impulsivity components and emotional lability in the research groups has a significant difference ($p < 0.05$). Eta squared value shows that 28.5, 16.1, 52.3% and 47.5% of the variance in motor impulsivity, Un planning, cognitive, and total impulsivity related to intergroup differences. Also, Eta squared value shows that 40.4, 38.3, 34.0% and 50.3% of the variance in Anxiety-Depression, Depression-Elation, Anger, and total affective lability related to intergroup differences.

Table 2. Results of multivariate analysis of variance of impulsivity and affective lability

Source	Subscales	Squared sum	Df	squared Mean	Statistic F	sig	Eta
group	Motor	3291.22	3	1097.07	65.94	0.001	0.285
	Un planning	1749.50	3	583.17	31.73	0.001	0.161
	Cognitive	6854.60	3	2284.86	181.50	0.001	0.523
	Total impulsivity	31250.63	3	10416.88	149.79	0.001	0.475
	Anxiety-Depression	3476.99	3	1156	112	0.001	0.404
	Depression-Elation	7170.97	3	2390.32	102.72	0.001	0.383
	Anger	2952.502	3	984.17	85.20	0.001	0.340
	Total Affective Lability	38216.74	3	12738.92	167.59	0.001	0.503

Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the present study show that impulsivity and emotional lability are significantly higher in group 1 than in group 2, and higher in group 3 than in group 4. In addition, group 3 does not differ from groups 1 and 2 in some components of impulsivity, and in terms of emotional lability, they have more emotional lability than group 2 and do not differ from group 1, suggesting that in addition to the symptoms of attention deficit and hyperactivity, pornography use is also related to these variables. In general, as a mediator with higher emotional lability and impulsivity than others, this disorder may lead to risky sexual

behavior, sexual dysfunction, and pornography use, threatening the quality of life and optimal functioning of these individuals. Moreover, the participants of this study were students from Tehran city, and the use of self-assessment instruments and the identification of research groups based on the cut-off value are the limitations of this study. Therefore, it is suggested to consider these cases in future studies.

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Conflicts of interest

Authors found no conflict of interests



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