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Prevention of substance use and violence among University students in Jordan: An interventional-comparative study between computer-mediated and conventional methods of prevention

Ayman M Hamdan Mansour

The University of Jordan Amman, Jordan

Substance and violence seems to overwhelm modern societies, and nowadays, became one main issue that concerns health care professionals at the developing countries.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to evaluate effectiveness of computer-mediated intervention to prevent substance abuse and violent behaviors and compare it to conventional intervention and a control group among first year University students in Jordan.

Methods: A randomized control clinical trial design to evaluate the effectiveness of using a computer-mediated intervention as a preventive intervention for substance abuse. A total number of 90 University students were randomly assigned into the three groups; computer mediated, conventional, and control group. Data collected regarding attitudes toward substance use and psychological related factors in addition to socio-demographic information.

Results: The analysis showed that there was no significant difference in University students' in attitudes toward substance use in relation to gender, working status, and family history of psychiatric disorder; (t=-1.03, p=0.3); (t=-0.12, p=0.9); (t=1.16, p=0.3) respectively. The ANOVA test of between-subject effect reported a very significant changes between the two time points for the entire sample together EE (F1, 29=9586.82, p-value=<.001). A significant F test means there are differences between the three time points. The change took place between the pre-test and post-test (time two). The reduction was positively fair i.e., 3.58. However, the effect of computer mediated intervention between the pre-test and post-test (time two) was positive (3.58).

Conclusion: Using computer-mediated software was effective to reduce vulnerability to substance use and sustain negative attitudes toward using substance and violent behaviors.

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