

An Analytic Study of Captagon Abuse

Academic Supervisor

Noor Faiz Abdalah Rawaa Abdulmunem Hasan Hazim Abdul Rahman Alhiti
Higher health institute. Higher health institute General Surgeon Specialist M.D, Academic Mentor

ABSTRACT:

BACKGROUND: Captagon (a form of amphetamine) is a social problem in the world.

AIM: to report & analyze Captagon Abuse in young Iraqi peoples.

METHODS: prospective, cross-sectional descriptive & analytic study using questionnaire from 65 young Iraqi peoples aged between (17-39) years from different social classes, randomly selected without names over December 2019, collected by students from second class of higher institute of nursing in Al-Anbar. A statistical analysis by Chi square through SPSS v23. The significant p-value is 0.05.

RESULTS: Sixty five responses from 35 males & 30 females, 29 of participants live in city. Fifteen girls, five widows & ten divorced women, while 31 single males & four married were reported. 28 people's fathers had bachelors or higher educational degree. There is no significant correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender.

CONCLUSIONS: Captagon Abuse is a critical problem rising in Iraqi community, must be banned. Iraqi peoples are seeking Captagon in the same need, easily from illegal sources.

KEYWORDS: Captagon, Abuse, Iraqi peoples, higher institute of nursing, Al-Anbar.

GEOGRAPHIC ABSTRACT:

prospective, cross-sectional descriptive & analytic study using questionnaire form randomly selected without names over December 2019 including 65 young Iraqi peoples aged between (17-39) years from different social classes, collected by students from second class of higher institute of nursing in Al-Anbar



A statistical analysis used by Chi square through SPSS v21. The significant p-value is 0.05



RESULTS: sixty five responses from 35 males & 30 females. 29 of participants live in city.

Fifteen girls, five widows & ten divorced women, while 31 singles & four married males

CONCLUSIONS:

Captagon Abuse is a critical problem rising in Iraqi community, must be banned. Iraqi peoples are seeking Captagon in the same need, easily from illegal sources.

Significance:

1. Important topic
2. This topic is the second one in Iraq
3. Sensitive hidden topic
4. Significant results
5. Need government action

INTRODUCTION:

Captagon is a commercial name of Fenethylline which is a mixture of theophylline and amphetamine that is one of the most social & economic problems in Iraq & the world, due to its major impact on the person & community and it draws its sequels on the family and society, which is extensively studied over the Arabic gulf young people due to Captagon effect on mental health like (Alyousef 2019) ^[1]

Captagon distresses adolescents & young people even women in a growing design in the world & the Middle East region. Captagon Abuse is mostly common overused in Arab countries and refugees that still available despite its illegality, like in many reports of the resettled Syrian refugees like (Almshosh 2019) ^[2]

Captagon was first stated by a German scientist in 1961 for the treatment of depression hyperactivity or narcolepsy. It has hallucinogenic & addictive; it was registered as a controlled drug by the United States in 1981 after that World Health Organization in 1986 leads to be illegal to sell or buy in the utmost countries.

Captagon has been stated as a central nervous system (CNS) stimulant due to lengthier and Clearer outcomes on man aggression, disinterest, cognition, and watchfulness than its metabolites, Amphetamine. Captagon abuse is not a local or regional issue, it becomes universal, as in many written studies like (Katselou 2016) ^[3]

It can inversely affect the victim in several ways by causing dependence, carelessness, ignorance, dissatisfaction & disease spread. Time-wasting is the dominant thing in our young people in addition to a few & scattered young centers like libraries, clubs, art societies, etc.

Rather Iraqi young people spend their time in aimless street waking, without hobbies. The most serious thing is the presence of night clubs, coffee shops that harbor many stimulating conditions for Captagon abuse like alcohol drinking, Gambling and smocking which deteriorating young people's wisdom. Captagon abuse is linked with the psychological or ideas conflicts in high-risk countries like in Syrian addicts which is mentioned in many papers as (Abazid 2020) [4]

After many sequential Iraqi wars, economic Sanctions, then 2003 Sadam fall, there were deterioration in social rules & uncontrolled freedom, social media dominance, free sexual satellites; all these had their negative impact on Iraqi young people's opinions and thoughts. Social security weakness is the main result of these above challenges with clear consequences on Iraqi young people as Captagon abuse, which is a very important topic in Al-Anbar and Iraq.

Our study is the second paper in Iraq and in Al- Ramadi provenance as in the mentioned paper written by (خلف س)^[5]

AIM: to report & analyze Captagon Abuse in young Iraqi peoples.

METHODS:

It is prospective, cross-sectional descriptive and analytic study using questionnaire from 65 young Iraqi peoples of both genders aged between (17-39) years from different social classes, randomly selected without names over December 2019, collected by students from second class of higher institute of nursing in Al-Anbar. A statistical analysis by Chi square through SPSS v23. The significant p-value is 0.05.

Sample size: sixty five which is relatively small.

Sample location: from different social classes of Iraqi people not limited to Al-Ramadi

Study design: prospective, cross-sectional descriptive & analytical study.

Study period: December 2019

Limitation of study: relatively small sample size & not represent the whole community.

Inclusion criteria: all peoples responded to the questionnaire form

Exclusion criteria: all peoples did not respond

Conflict of interest: none

Ethical committee: vague names, oral consent

Plagiarism: none

Bias risk is low

Statistics: A statistical analysis used by Chi square through SPSS v21.

The significant p-value: is 0.05.

Null hypothesis: no significant correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender.

Results:

Table 1 shows the distribution of Captagon between genders & marital status.

Marital status	Males	females	Total
Single	31	15	46
Married	4		4
Widow		5	5
Divorced		10	10
Total	35	30	65

Table 2 shows the opinions of Captagon abusers about Captagon accessibility

Captagon accessibility	Male	Female	Total
Yes	32	28	60
No	3	2	5
Total	35	30	65

Table 3: shows the correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.083 ^a	1	.774		
Continuity Correction ^b	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.083	1	.773		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.574
Linear-by-Linear Association	.081	1	.776		
N of Valid Cases	65				

a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.31.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Table 4: Symmetric Measures for correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymptotic Standardized Error ^a	Approximate T ^b	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	-.036			.774
	Cramer's V	.036			.774
Interval by Interval	Pearson's R	-.036	.122	-.283	.778 ^c
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	-.036	.122	-.283	.778 ^c
N of Valid Cases		65			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

c. Based on normal approximation.

Discussion:

This study involves a direct face to face well-prepared questionnaire about Captagon

Abuse in young Iraqi peoples collected by a research group from emergency faculty second class. The study involved both genders from different Iraqi social classes randomly selected adolescents, young adults even middle-aged people after oral consent, without names.

The sample size is relatively small, this is due to the low availability of Captagon in our Society, but still it is hidden between consumers, this is similar to reported papers in Iraq, as in the mentioned paper written by (خلف س) [5]

Table 1 shows the distribution of Captagon between genders & marital status.

Males are the main users in our report; this is mostly due to male's hard work requirements or lifestyle habits. Captagon gives males the false energy of being well and able to do more work, and this is a recycling of energy desire. This repetitive cycle causes physical exhaustion and dependence. Captagon Trend in the patient desire to crime in an Organized Traffic on Global young people which is a significant issue of Global Security, this issue is discussed in many articles like (Kassab 2017) [6]

There are many motivations in the prevalence of Captagon abuse in Arabic people in the Arabic Gulf like in Iraqi young people or Saudi Arabia (Jeddah) study so Captagon abuse require Government and community attention. This important topic is discussed in many countries, as in (Gamal 2017) [7] but unfortunately not in Iraq. Although females consumed Captagon, mostly due to marriage problems like divorce or widowhood state. It may be due to life problems or unhappy events, although it still reported in single girls, especially the students and this is may be due to the advantage of drug components, this is similar to previous works of literature about Captagon advantage in Egyptian young peoples like (Nivert 2016) [8]

Most participants were from city which is a logical explanation of complex lifestyle and Deficit night sleep, depression and hard work, this is the same perception of use by many educational levels due to study requirements, that is within the papers world reports.

Captagon Abuse affects in governments Political issues, due to its effects on people's desire and intentions. Captagon Abuse even affects rational Actors and politician group so that they become addicted to Mind Altering Drugs like Captagon abused, which is mentioned in different articles such as (Hotrum 2017) [9]

Table 2 shows the opinions of Captagon abusers about Captagon accessibility.

We can see the little difference between males and females due to Captagon availability in illegal markets or illegal pharmacies. Captagon trade increased in these illegal markets due to increasing need between males and females consumers which is a significant drug trade in the middle east. This topic is mentioned in several studies like (AL-Imam 2017) [10]

Table 3: Chi-Square Test to show the correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender

There is no significant correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender. That means both males and females were used Captagon in a relatively equal number and seek for Captagon from illegal markets or illegal pharmacies in the same desire which is a significant finding, it indicates that both males and females handled Captagon in an illegal way and in a good availability, which is a community hazard and mental health danger. Captagon effects were mentioned in many articles like (Alodhailah 2020) [11]

Table 4: Symmetric Measures between Captagon accessibility and gender

There is no significant correlation between Captagon accessibility and gender. This means that both genders believes that Captagon can be abused in spite of availability of the drug through habitual dependence. This is a dangerous point because abusers may cause crime to find Captagon, or theft it, even leads to human Crimes and Criminals as were mentioned in many books like (Krishnan 2018) [12]

The side effects of Captagon still is the main social problem due to aggression and hallucination which can increase crime and unstable mood, which is the main drawback of Captagon leads to drug ban. [13]

CONCLUSIONS:

Captagon Abuse is a critical problem rising in Iraqi community, must be banned, Iraqi peoples are seeking Captagon in the same need, easily from illegal sources.

Recommendation:

1. Government firm actions on Captagon use.
2. More researches & studies on Captagon abuse.
3. New laws on Captagon trade.

References:

1. Alyousef S, Alhamidi S. Factors contributing to mental health stigma among Saudi medical practitioners. *The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice*. 2019; 14(2): 96-105. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JMHTEP-08-2017-0051>
2. Almoshmosh N, Bahloul H, Barkil-Oteo A, Hassan G, Kirmayer L. Mental health of resettled Syrian refugees: a practical cross-cultural guide for practitioners. *The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice*. 2019; 15(1): 20-32. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JMHTEP-03-2019-0013>
3. Katselou M, Papoutsis I, Nikolaou P, Qammaz S, Spiliopoulou C, Athanaselis S. Fenethylamine (Captagon) abuse—local problems from an old drug become universal. *Basic. Clin Pharmacol*. 2016;119:133–40. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/bcpt.12584>
4. Abazid H, Abou-Isba S, Abu Farha R, Al-Jomaa E. Drug abuse in Syria: pattern of use, causes and perception as perceived by Syrian addicts. *JPHSR*. 2020; 2(1): 22-26. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jphs.12345>
5. خلف س. PHYSIOLOGICAL, CYTOGENETIC AND MOLECULAR STUDY OF SAMPLE OF CAPTAGON ADDICTS IN AL-RAMADI PROVENANCE. *مجلة جامعة الانبار للعلوم الصرفة*. 2012. المجلد السادس ، العدد الاول . <https://www.iasj.net/iasj?func=fulltext&aId=61723>
6. Kassab HS, Rosen JD. General Trends in Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime on a Global Scale. In: *Illicit Markets, Organized Crime, and Global Security*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 2019. 87-109. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-90635-5_5
7. Gamal M, Abdelrahim MEA, Mohammed JA, Bamofleh EA. The reasons behind prevalence of captagon addiction in Jeddah and community awareness: A Questionnaire-based study. *ScholReps*. 2017; 2(1). https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mohammed_Gamal9/publication/316082230.pdf
8. Nivert Z, Marwa S, Reem ESH, Elwasify M, Elturky J. Help-seeking patterns in an Egyptian sample of substance use disorder patients. *Middle East Current Psychiatry*. 2016; 23(3): 147-152. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.XME.0000484680.46326.1d>
9. Hotrum, Jay P. *Drug Abuse and Politics. What Happens When Rational Actors Become Addicted to Mind Altering Drugs?* UC Riverside: University Honors. 2017. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/70s7k6rs>
10. AL-Imam A, Santacroce R, Roman-Urrestarazu A, Chilcott R. et al. Captagon: use and trade in the Middle East. *Hum. Psych*. 2017;32(3): e2548. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hup.2548>
11. Alodhailah NA. Investment obstacles in drug addiction treatment in Saudi Arabia. *Int. j. inf. tecnol*. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41870-020-00428-6>
12. Krishnan A. *War Crimes and Criminal Conduct*. In: *Why Paramilitary Operations Fail*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 2018. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71631-2_7

13. Al-Imam A, Hussein A, Saad S. Face Recognition Abilities in Iraqi Medical Students: An Inferential, Cross Sectional Analysis, Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. 2018; 12(1); e9801. <https://doi.org/10.5812/ijpbs.9801>