

Evaluation of mental problems in drivers with fatal driving mistakes

Abstract

Background: Psychiatric diseases have been discussed with the possibility of influencing the health of drivers and accidents leading to death. Previous studies in this case have stated the possibility of a relationship between depression and schizophrenia with impaired driving performance.

Aim: The purpose of this study was to investigate the mental health of drivers who have had fatal accidents in order to investigate the mental disorders of these drivers.

Materials and methods: In this case-control study, the drivers of various types of vehicles who have been involved in fatal urban and suburban accidents were identified by the traffic police of Ardabil province and were subjected to a psychiatric interview with written consent.

Results: 200 drivers in two hundred groups participated in this study. In the group of drivers with fatal driving errors, there were 57 men (57%) and 43 women (43%), and in the group of drivers without mistakes, there were 65 men (65%) and 35 women (35%) ($P=0.155$). The average age of drivers with fatal driving errors was 35.65 ± 6.62 years and the average age of drivers without errors was 35.56 ± 6.31 years ($P=0.822$). Among the drivers with fatal driving errors, 66 people (66%) were employed and 34 people (34%) were unemployed, and among the drivers without mistakes, 69 people (69%) were employed, 30 people (30%) were unemployed, and 1 person was unemployed. (1%) were retired ($P=0.518$). In terms of education, 17 cases (17%) of the drivers with fatal driving errors had an undergraduate degree, 39 cases (39%) had a diploma, 9 cases (9%) had a post-graduate degree, and 35 cases (35%) had university education. Among the fault-free drivers, 10 cases (10%) had a diploma, 33 cases (33%) had a diploma, 20 cases (20%) had a post-graduate degree, and 37 cases (37%) had university education ($P=0.088$). There was no significant difference in substance consumption in the two groups ($P=0.253$). The consumption of psychiatric drugs was significantly higher in the group of drivers with fatal driving errors than in the other group; In the group of drivers with fatal driving errors, 7 cases (7 percent) and in the group of drivers without errors in 1 case (1 percent), the use of psychiatric drugs was reported ($P=0.032$). In terms of history of recent accidents, no difference was observed between the two groups ($P=0.334$). Mental disorders in the group of drivers with fatal driving errors were significantly higher than the group of drivers without errors ($P=0.041$).

Conclusion: The use of psychiatric drugs and mental disorders in the group of drivers with fatal driving errors was significantly higher than the group of drivers without errors.

Keywords: traffic accidents, mental health, personality disorders