Title: Gender differences in waterpipe smoking among Iranian adolescents

Abstract: The prevalence of waterpipe smoking among adolescents has revealed a discrepancy from country to country due to socio-cultural determinates. The aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of gender on the prevalence of waterpipe smoking and its associated factors among Iranian adolescents.

Materials & Methods: A population based cross-sectional study was conducted among 1201 adolescents, aged 15 to 18 years. The participants were recruited through random sampling in Tehran, Iran in 2010. Data were collected using the Youth Risk Behavior System self-administered questionnaire. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses determined factors associated with waterpipe use.

Results: The current prevalence of waterpipe smoking was 21.35% in female and 34.80% in male adolescents. Based on the multivariate logistic regression analysis, having a waterpipe smoker friend (Odds Ratio [OR]: 2.19, 95%, Confidence Interval [CI]: 1.08 -4.41) or family member (OR: 3.17, 95%, CI: 1.70-5.96) were significant factors of current waterpipe use among female adolescents, however, older age (OR: 3.24, 95% CI: 1.44-6.99), education failures (OR: 2.89, 95% CI: 1.21-6.92), having a waterpipe smoker friend (OR: 4.17, 95% CI: 1.82-9.57), or family member (OR: 3.29, 95% CI: 1.57-6.91) were significant factors of current waterpipe use among male adolescents.

Conclusions: The results of the present study show that the prevalence of waterpipe use was higher among boys than girls and highlight the importance of developing intervention programs to prevent and control tobacco consumption among the youth in Iran.

Keywords: Gender, waterpipe, adolescents, Iran

Presentation: Poster