A SOCIAL NETWORK SERVICE LINKEDIN AND INTERNET ADDICTION

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: The aim of the study was to evaluate the relationship between LinkedIn users and Internet addiction (IA) by Telepsychiatric service. LinkedIn is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them by internet.

METHODS: A total of 100 LinkedIn clients were studied with Free online telepsychiatric services. Internet Addiction Test (IAT) was used, by Telepsychiatric service, to assess state measures of symptom severity. IAT, developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, is a 20-item questionnaire that measures mild, moderate, and severe levels of Internet Addiction. First, we investigated LinkedIn users by internet. Second, we evaluated for their severity of Internet addiction. Third, we investigated correlations between LinkedIn and Internet addiction use by IAT.

RESULTS: Score: 10 % clients without Internet Addiction;20-49 points (mild IA) had been founded 25 % clients;50-79 points (moderate IA) had been found at 29 % clients (frequent problems with the Internet);80-100 points (severe IA) had been found at 36 % clients (significant problems with the Internet). Moderate and severe level off IA had been found at 65 % clients (LinkedIn users).

CONCLUSIONS: This study reveals a extremely significant association between Internet addiction and LinkedIn users (P< 0.0001). The data suggest the necessity of the continued examination off LinkedIn users, evaluation and follow-up evolution of IA by Telepsychiatric service.

Key words: Telepsychiatric service,internet,addiction, LinkedIn.

Introduction

Addictive use of the Internet is a new phenomenon which many practitioners are unaware of and subsequently unprepared to treat. Some therapists are unfamiliar with the Internet, making its seduction difficult to understand (1).

Internet addiction disorder (IAD), or, more broadly, *Internet overuse*, *problematic computer use* or *pathological computer use*, is excessive computer use that interferes with daily life (2,3).

A **social network service** focuses on building and reflecting of social networks or social relations among people, e.g., who share interests and/or activities. A social network service essentially consists of a representation of each user (often a profile), his/her social links, and a variety of additional services (4).

Internet Addiction Test (IAT) developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, is a 20-item questionnaire that measures mild, moderate, and severe levels of Internet Addiction. IAT was used, by Telepsychiatric service. To assess your level of addiction, answer the following questions using this scale:1=Rarely. 2=Occasionally. 3=Frequently. 4=Often. 5=Always. Questions include items: How often do you find that you stay on-line longer than you intended? How often do you check your e-mail before something else that you need to do? How often do you feel depressed, moody, or nervous when you are off-line, which goes away once you are back on-line? etc. (1,2,5).

LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site. Founded in December 2002, it is mainly used for professional networking. As of 11 February 2010, LinkedIn had more than 60 million registered users, spanning more than 200 countries and territories worldwide (6).

The term **"telepsychiatry"** refers to the use of telecommunication technologies with the aim of providing psychiatric services from a distance. Telepsychiatry and e-mental health services primarily involve videoconferencing over high speed (broadband) networks to enable natural interactions between patients and providers. Telepsychiatry connects patients and mental health professionals, permitting effective diagnosis, treatment, education, transfer of medical data and other activities related to mental health care. Traditionally, this has required leasing specialized high speed telephone circuits that were dedicated for videoconferencing (7).

Telepsychiatry is the application of Telemedicine to the field of Psychiatry. It has been the most successful of all the telemedicine applications so far, because of its need for only a good videoconferencing facility between the patient and the psychiatrist, especially for follow-up. There are sub-specialties like *forensic telepsychiatry*, in which the patient is typically an inmate accessing the psychiatrist who is from a supporting institution, and *home-based telepsychiatry*, whereby the patient is in his own home or office, accessing the physician via webcam and high-speed internet. Another common application is for patients in rural or underserved areas. A recent innovation is the development of the subspecialty of emergency psychiatry via telemedicine. Research is currently on-going to develop the unique guidelines required to provide consultation for emergency psychiatric patients such as the evaluation of the suicidal, homidical, violent, psychotic, depressed, manic, and acutely anxious patient. Emergency telepsychiatry services are being provided to hospital emergency departments, jails, community mental health centers, substance abuse treatment facilities, and schools (8).

AIM

The aim of the study was to evaluate the relationship between LinkedIn users and Internet addiction(IA) by Telepsychiatric service.

METHODS

A total of 100 random LinkedIn clients were studied with Free online telepsychiatric services and 100 total of no LinkedIn clients(control group). Internet Addiction Test (IAT) was used, by Telepsychiatric service, to assess state measures of symptom severity. Research instrument was IAT, developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, with 20-item questionnaire for measures different levels of Internet Addiction (1,2).

For statistical procesing we used programs and methods by SPSS-10 and PASW-18 statiscis for computer.

First, we investigated LinkedIn users by internet and no LinkedIn clients.

Second, we evaluated for their severity of Internet addiction.

Third, we investigated statistical correlations between both groups, especially LinkedIn and Internet addiction use by IAT.

RESULTS

Based on the goal front, we get the following results (Table I) for LinkedIn users: Score: 10 % clients without Internet Addiction;

20-49 points (mild IA) had been founded 25 % clients;

50-79 points (moderate IA) had been found at 29 % clients (frequent problems with the Internet);

80-100 points(severe IA) had been found at 36 % clients (significant problems with the Internet).

Also, we get the following results for no LinkedIn users:

Score: 65 % clients without Internet Addiction;

20-49 points (mild IA) had been founded 13 % clients;

50-79 points (moderate IA) had been found at 25 % clients (frequent problems with the Internet);

80-100 points (severe IA) had been found at 3 % clients (significant problems with the Internet). Table I and Table II shows statistical results by SPSS-10 and PASW-18 statiscis programs.
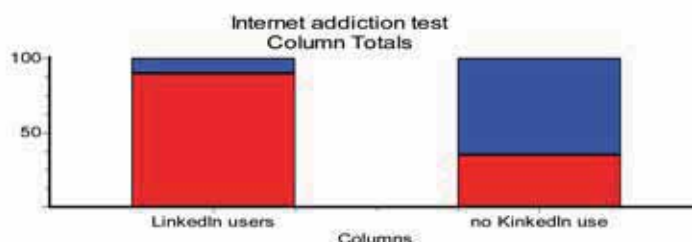
Table I

Internet Addiction Test (IAT)	LinkedIn users		No LinkedIn users	
	N	%	N	%
clients without Internet Addiction	10	10 %	65	65%
20-49 points (mild IA)	25	25 %	13	13%
50-79 points (moderate IA)	29	29 %	19	19%
80-100 points(severe IA)	36	36 %	3	3%
TOTAL	100	100 %	100	100 %

Table II

Fisher's Exact Test	LinkedIn users		No LinkedIn users		total	
Internet Addiction Test(IAT)	Statistic	%	Statistic	%	N	%
without IA	10	5	65	32	75	37
With IA	90	45	35	18	125	63
total	100		100		200	100
%	(50%)		(50%)		(100%)	
Relative risk = 0.1852 95% Confidence Interval:					0.1029 to 0.3332	
95% Confidence Interval of that fraction: 0.06577 to 0.2312 95% Confidence Interval of that fraction: 0.6330 to 0.7963						
Difference between the two proportions Top row (without IA): Fraction in the left column:					0.1333	
Difference between the two proportions Bottom row (IA): Fraction in the left column:					0.7200	
Difference between the fractions: Standard error of the difference: 0.07303 95% confidence interval of difference: 0.4435 to 0.7298					0.5867	
The two-sided P value is < 0.0001, considered extremely significant.						

Graph 1.

Internet addiction test
Column Totals

DISCUSSION

Based on the goal front in Table I, we get the following results for LinkedIn users: Score:

10 % clients without Internet Addiction;

20-49 points (mild IA) had been founded 25 % clients;

50-79 points (moderate IA) had been found at 29 % clients (frequent problems with the Internet);

80-100 points(severe IA) had been found at 36 % clients (significant problems with the Internet).

Based on the results front total moderate and severe level off IA had been found at 65 % clients (LinkedIn users).

Also, we get the following results for no LinkedIn users: Score: 65 % clients without Internet Addiction; 20-49 points (mild IA) had been founded 13 % clients; 50-79 points (moderate IA) had been found at 19 % clients (frequent problems with the Internet); 80-100 points (severe IA) had been found at 3 % clients (significant problems with the Internet).

Based on the results front total moderate and severe level off IA had been found at 22 % clients (no LinkedIn users). Based on the results in Table II and Graph 1., this study reveals a statistically *extremely significant association between Internet addiction and LinkedIn users* (The two-sided P value is < 0.0001, considered extremely significant by Fisher's Exact Test).

CONCLUSIONS

Only 10 % clients without Internet Addiction, 25 % clients with mild IA.

Total moderate and severe level off IA had been found at 65 % clients (LinkedIn users).

This study reveals a statistically extremely significant association between Internet addiction and LinkedIn users (The two-sided P value is < 0.0001, considered extremely significant by Fisher's Exact Test).

The data suggest the necessity of the continued examination off LinkedIn users, evaluation and follow-up evolution of IA by Telepsychiatric service.

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The authors report no competing interests.

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Footnotes

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