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## Role of Cognitive Rehabilitation in Patients Suffering From Schizophrenia with a Comorbid Addiction to Amphetamine and Cannabis

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**Introduction:** An important element of the rehabilitation in schizophrenia is cognitive rehabilitation, aimed at the greatest possible reduction in deficits.

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to examine cognitive functioning in schizophrenic patients with a comorbid addiction to psychoactive substances participating in a cognitive rehabilitation program.

**Methods:** All recruited patients were men, aged between 20 and 45 years. They were examined in the initial period of the stay at the treatment center and after 4-7 weeks of hospitalization, after the stabilization of acute psychotic symptoms. During this time patients participated in the cognitive rehabilitation program. Cognitive function were assessed: Trail Making Test ( TMT A & B), Stroop Test, and Verbal Fluency Test. Patients were divided into two groups according to abused substances: a) amphetamine users (n = 15), b) cannabis users (n = 11). As for the medication - 25 of 26 patients were treated with second generation antipsychotics.

**Results:** After the process of rehabilitation of cognitive functions of all gained patients gained a significant improvement. The type of abused psychoactive substance did not significantly affect cognitive functioning. However, amphetamine-dependent patients achieved better results in some of the cognitive tests. Cognitive rehabilitation does not affect the reduction of psychopathological symptoms. However, in patients addicted to amphetamines a decrease in the severity of these symptoms was found.

**Conclusions:** Cognitive rehabilitation exerts a positive effect on cognitive functioning of schizophrenic patients with concomitant dependence on psychoactive substances.