

Attempts have been made to obtain indicators of the abuse of illicit drugs. Many techniques are expensive and/or time-consuming. Others have limitations due to the focus on specific populations. The recent outbreak of fentanyl deaths in Chicago and Detroit related to fentanyl-laced heroin suggest that mortality is a valuable indicator of a drug's presence and prevalence in a community. Drug mortality statistics are accessible from Medical Examiner/Coroner offices. It is possible that including deaths both intentional and non-intentional will give the best overall indication of trends in drug use. By following death rates, it may be possible to provide a "canary in the coal mine" for drugs of abuse. We've studied data from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for cocaine related deaths. Data from 2005 showed 1,943 deaths compared to 1,034 cocaine related deaths in 2000, a 90% increase. Data from the first 6 months of 2006 reveals a continuing increasing trend with an increase of 10.8% compared to 2005. Supporting data from a survey of students at the University of Florida showed an increase of cocaine use in the previous year from 4.0% in 1991 to 7.1% in 2004. There appears to be a renewed epidemic of cocaine abuse in Florida. Interventions are required to prevent progression of this alarming trend.

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Differential comorbidity between ADHD with substance use disorder and ADHD without substance use disorder group

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Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) presents high levels of life-long comorbidity. Several studies demonstrate an elevated co-occurrence between ADHD and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as well as personality disorders.

The objective of this poster is to demonstrate differential characteristics between ADHD with SUD patients versus ADHD without SUD, in relation to Axis II comorbidity, ADHD symptoms severity and childhood behavioural disorders (conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder).

Another objective is to identify differences in the prevalence of SUD relative to gender and ADHD subtype (Inattentive, Hyperactive/Impulsive and Combined).

This will be done using a comparative-descriptive study that was carried out with a sample of 125 adults diagnosed with ADHD using the CAADID in the Adult ADHD Integral Programme (PIDAA) of Vall d'Hebron Universitari Hospital; 53 subjects presented associated SUD (DSM-IV). All the subjects were evaluated with ADHD Rating Scale, SCID-I, SCID-II and K-SADS.

Relative to ADHD group, subjects ADHD with SUD subjects showed higher comorbidity with Axis-II Disorders, especially with antisocial, schizoid and paranoid personality disorders, as well as major prevalence of conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder in childhood. There were no significant differences respect to ADHD symptoms severity nor ADHD subtype between both groups. A major proportion of men were observed in ADHD with SUD group compared to ADHD patients.

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Erectile dysfunction in alcoholic patients. Results of an observational study carried out in an alcohol treatment centre

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Background and aims: Alcoholism is one of the most common chronic disorders in the western world that causes and aggravates a whole range of diseases and disorders. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of cases of erectile dysfunction (ED) among the alcoholics attending a detoxification unit.

Methods: 100 male alcoholic patients were selected from all consecutive visits to an alcohol outpatient unit. The diagnosis of ED was determined using the SQUED questionnaire for ED (score ≤ 12). All the patients were questioned about their use of alcohol and other drugs, the organic diseases they were suffering from and the pharmacological treatment they were receiving.

Results: One hundred patients recruited had a mean age of 47.2 ± 9.8 years. The mean daily amount of alcohol consumed was 14.4 ± 7.6 standard drink units, the mean frequency being 6.5 ± 1.4 days a week. The abstinence time over the last six months was 14.2 ± 9.8 weeks. 83% of patients were smokers and 29% consumed hypnotics-sedatives. 73% of patients were on pharmacological treatment (57% for alcoholic detoxification, 33% with antidepressants). According to the SQUED questionnaire, 26% of patients presented ED and 20% had had no sexual relationship during the last 6 months.

Conclusions: The prevalence of ED in alcoholic patients was high (26-46%). The diagnosis and treatment of ED should be an aspect to be taken into account in this type of patients to reduce their anxiety and so aid in preventing possible relapses of their alcoholism.

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The COMT Val158Met polymorphism is associated with novelty seeking in Czech methamphetamine abusers: Preliminary results

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Background and aims: Measurable traits of human personality may mark the predisposition to psychopathology. Increased novelty seeking plays an important role in the pathogenesis of substance abuse. Novelty seeking, one of the fundamental traits of the human temperament, is related to dopamine. Catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) is essential for dopamine inactivation. The aim of our study was to assess whether the COMT gene Val158Met functional polymorphism in patients dependent on methamphetamine is related to their novelty seeking score.

Methods: Patients dependent on methamphetamine who had been treated at the Addiction Treatment Unit in Nechanice in 2004 and 2005 agreed to participate in the investigation. We administered the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI) questionnaire, assessed their novelty seeking score and analysed their DNA samples for COMT Val158Met genotype.

Results: The subjects were thirty-seven Czech Caucasians (women $N = 10$) dependent on methamphetamine with an average age of 23.6 ± 3.8 years. We found a significantly higher mean novelty seeking score among the patients with the Met allele (Met/Met

homozygotes + Val/Met heterozygotes; $N = 28$) than in nine Val/Val homozygotes (27.4 vs 24.1; $p = 0.042$, Two-Sample T-Test).

Conclusions: The Met allele of the COMT gene Val158Met polymorphism is associated with low COMT enzyme activity and high endogenous dopamine synaptic levels in the prefrontal cortex. This leads to a decrease in dopaminergic neurotransmission in nucleus accumbens and a need for an increased activity to stimulate it. Novelty seeking behavior corresponds with this need.

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The management of psychiatric comorbidity in an outpatient individual therapeutic program of addiction

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During last years there is an increasing tendency to develop treatments specifically tailored for addicted patients with psychiatric comorbidity. The Counseling Center offers an outpatient, drug counseling individual psychotherapeutic program. No medical treatment is administered except naltrexone which is prescribed to some selected heroin addicted users.

As substance use disorders and psychiatric disorders (psychotic, affective and anxiety disorders) commonly co-occur it is of great importance to facilitate early diagnosis so the therapist will be able to design the optimal management of users with a comorbid psychiatric disorder. If there is an evidence of comorbidity the user is also referred to a psychiatrist other than the drug counseling therapist who diagnoses and has the responsibility for the medical and psychotherapeutic treatment of this disorder.

The therapists' collaboration has two main intents: the abstinence from drug use and the recovery from the psychiatry disorder. In case abstinence is not succeeded or the comorbid disorder is not optimally treated the outcome of the treatment effort will not be successful.

Furthermore it is also important to give detailed information to the user about the therapeutic process and the way in which drug use contributes to the development and the maintenance of the psychiatric disorder. As for heroin users with psychiatric comorbidity the prescription of naltrexone will also be very helpful.

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Expression and communication through body in withdrawal attempt

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Development is a continuous procedure of innate and extraneous factors. One person's personality is formed by these factors, starting from the early childhood. Movement, cognitive, personal and social development, self-esteem and self-confidence are parts of the total human growth. Any behavior, adaptation or experience can be expressed by human body. During communication, the biggest part, is carried out by non verbal communication. Human body plays the most important role to conscious of the relationship between movement and expression ability during communication. Drug addicted people assign themselves, psychological and biological to "substance". As a result, they loose the control of their bodies. So, every withdrawal attempt should work, not only with the psychical part of

the addiction, but with the physical dimension, too. Then, can be thought as completed. The purpose of this study is to present "body awareness groups", which work out in an alternative "therapy" program to deal with addiction to drug. The purpose of these groups is to help drug addicted people to realize that their body can be a medium for express emotions and communication. Member's participation and behavior compares and assesses with their general function to the rest of the "therapeutic groups". The result of this assessment refer to the total psychological and biological withdrawal attempt.

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Educating high school teachers in applying programs for the prevention of drug abuse

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The Counselling Center for Combating Drug Abuse in Ioannina has planned and is currently applying a program on drug abuse prevention for high school students. The main object of this program is to enable students to develop basic skills and personal capabilities to cope with difficulties, expecting in this way to change their attitudes against drug use.

These programs are carried out by specialists or alternatively by teachers who have already been entirely educated how to apply prevention programs in a group oriented way. In addition teachers are supervised by a specialist so they can discuss with him both the progress of the program and the difficulties or questions which arise as the program goes on.

Although teachers are often regarded as the most suitable to apply such programs because of their close and continuous contact with their students, there are difficulties which some times make the implementation of the program problematic. Such difficulties arise either from insufficient education in the philosophy of prevention programs or from their rigid convictions about educational techniques. If we want teachers to be effective in applying preventive programs they must become familiar with experiential techniques and work in groups.

Supervision and examination of their motivations are also of great importance. Teachers who will be educated to apply these programs should be carefully selected in order to be appropriate to learn a new way to teach their students.

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A combination of the narcotic antagonist therapy and a special psychotherapy

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We believe that under valuation of the significance of special psychotherapeutic work in applying the narcotic antagonist therapy is the main reason of its comparatively poor efficacy. Often the antagonist therapy is conducted while drug addicts are not psychologically prepared to give up taking drugs.

We have tried to develop a model of combination of the narcotic antagonist therapy with special psychotherapeutic work (i.e. with our working model of forming an antinarcotic psychological set). Our special psychotherapeutic model is based on the Uznadze psychological theory of set.