

Methods: Ten multidrug detoxification inpatients treated with a topiramate-protocol were compared to 10 patients treated with a clonidine-scheme and 10 patients treated with a carbamazepine-mianserine protocol. Comedication, protocol deviations (dose augmentation or reduction) and retention in treatment were compared between groups.

Results: There were significantly less protocol deviations in the topiramate group compared to the other two groups. Topiramate treated patients were less often given antiemetics and sedative antipsychotic drugs. The retention in treatment was comparable between the 3 groups.

Conclusions: Topiramate is a well tolerated and seemingly efficient alternative to standard withdrawal treatments for multidrug users.

P55.04

Longitudinal study of psychiatric comorbidity in MDMA users

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Introduction: Prevalence and relationship between psychiatric comorbidity and MDMA use is not clearly established.

Objectives: To study, in a longitudinal case-control design, the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in a sample of MDMA users non-seeking treatment.

Subjects: Forty MDMA users non-seeking treatment and 48 matched controls.

Methods: All subjects were diagnosed (DSM-IV) in a blind manner with the validated Spanish version of a semi-structured interview specifically designed for substance abuse patients (PRISM, 1996)

Results at baseline evaluation:

- Twenty-eight percent of cases had the diagnosis of MDMA abuse disorder and 13 % had MDMA dependence disorder. Most cases showed other substance use disorder (65% cannabis, 28% alcohol, 25% cocaine). Only 2% of alcohol abuse was found in controls.
- Thirty-two percent of cases had other psychiatric disorder non-related to substance use (affective 5%, anxiety 8%, eating 3%). Only 6% of controls had non-related to substance use psychiatric disorder (affective 2%, anxiety 2%, eating 2%).

Conclusions: MDMA users non-seeking treatment has a higher prevalence of psychiatric comorbidity than controls.

P55.05

Affective disorders and craving to drugs in heroin addiction

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Objectives: the affective disorders are the frequent psychopathology caused by drug abuse. Being a clinical manifestation an affective disturbances are frequently included into pathological pattern of craving to drugs.

Methods: 129 heroin addicts (99 men and 30 women) aged from 17 to 36 years old have been examined. Duration of drug misuse varied from 6 months to 6 years.

Results: in the first stage of withdrawal syndrome (5–7 days after the last heroin intake) affective disorders were accompanied by somato-vegetative and algesic symptoms. These disturbances become most prominent after cessation of acute withdrawal symptoms. There were predominant astheno-depressive, anxious and

dysphoric symptoms with behavioral difficulties in the structure of these disturbances. The aggravation of depression with the typical dysphoric features normally indicated to the actualization of pathological craving to the narcotics and needs the treatment. Considering the structure of affective disorders we preferred to administer medications both with thymoleptic and sedative activity. Antidepressants were combined with mild neuroleptics.

Conclusions: clear association between severity of depressive disorders and intensity of craving to drugs was found. Administration of antidepressants is obligatory in the treatment of heroin addiction.

P55.06

Gambling co-morbidity in heroin addicts in MMT

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Goals: to evaluate co-morbidity for gambling in a group of heroin addicted patients (according to DSM IV criteria) in Methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) for more than 3 months.

Methods: we included all the patients in MMT in a defined week and we sent to all a letter in order to clarify the goals of the research and to collect their informed consent. We used SOGS – Gambling History Test (South Oaks Clinical Team by Lesieur & Blume – 1987) submitted by a trained professional.

Results:

MMT group	715		
MMT group > 3 months	594		
Tested group	244	M 204	F 40

Group	Score					
	0–2	%	3–4	%	≥5	%
244	183	75	19	7.8	42	17.2

Conclusions: our study shows an interesting result about pathological gambling in this specific group of patients: 25% of these has a significant score (>2) at the SOGS-test. At the present it is quite difficult to compare our results because we do not know if exist any international data about co-morbidity for gambling in addicts.

These results however confirm that it is necessary to better understand the common patterns of different addictive behaviours and to investigate the several aspects of the addictions in every patient to manage them in the best way. The mission of our Department clearly defines that every kind of addiction are to study and to treat; for the next future we are defining more focused studies on this problem and we are developing a specific clinical unit to treat pathological gambling.

P55.07

Gender differences among heroin users

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Background: Wide spread of heroin abuse in Russia in recent years makes it necessary to study and understand gender differences among heroin users.

Methods: We performed a systematic comparison of 80 in-patient female and 41 in-patient male heroin users. Heredity, pre-morbid period, beginning of drug use, medical complications and social negative aspects of heroin addiction were assessed.

Results: 76,3% of female heroin users were given their first heroin intake by their male sexual partner, 70% of women reported that their partners were drug addicts. About one-third of women (31%) began using heroin right away systematically daily, 35% began using heroin intravenously. All clinical syndromes and complications of the heroin addiction in women developed in shorter terms. Withdrawal syndrome more often manifested in women with psychopathological disorders. Changes of personality with prevalence of behavioral disorders, hysteria, expressed affective lability appeared to form more rapidly. Hyposexuality and lowering of libido were revealed in 63,8% cases. Suicidal tendencies were found in more than a half (56,2%) of female heroin addicts. 72,5% of the women were unemployed. Women's heroin addiction was accompanied by a lower criminal activity.

Conclusions: Strong gender differences were found among heroin addicts on every stage of disease.

P55.08

Heroin addiction and its social consequences in Russia

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Introduction: the problem of drug addicts now all over the world is extremely acute in conditions of disorganization of a society, growth of criminality and other social anomalies. In Russia for last 10 years the tendency of growth of number of the persons using narcotic substances among which heroin takes the leader position is marked.

Materials and methods: we observed and treated more than 400 patients with heroin addicts. The age of patients was from 17 till 38 years, the duration of drug addiction was from 1 till 6 years.

Results: in most of patient affective disorders, mostly observed in withdrawal and post-withdrawal periods were marked. In withdrawal period the syndrome of pathologic craving were manifested in the form of dysphoric, melancholic and apathy depression. The was more expressed a dysphoria, the more often patients tried to interrupt treatment and to leave a hospital. At melancholy depression the condition of patients were characterized by emotional instability, fragility, and hypersensitivity. Such persons developed tendency to react inadequately to non-important psycho-traumatic events. All this promoted actualization of craving for drugs and quite often resulted in a recurrent. In 38,8% of cases the formation of pathologic craving correlates with antisocial behavior. Dynamic development and increase of affective disorders caused by pathologic craving for a heroin promoted to the commitment of different violations of the law: embezzlement, official and other crimes against person. Correlating analysis confirms that more than in half of the cases (67,8 %) of heroin addicts have law condemnations both under articles not related with drugs but being the result of drug use and as well as under article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, related with the illegal circulation of drugs.

Conclusion: At heroin addiction in all patients are observed disorders of affective sphere, as depressive, depressively-dysphoric, hypochondria, asthenia conditions. Their manifestation and duration depended on a type of pre-morbid changes in personality and duration of drug use. Social consequences of drug addictions, especially with the early beginning of drug use, are characterized by cessation of studies, acquirement of labor and professional experience by addicts, and professional discipline violations. Most

addicts do not study or work, more than 25% of them join criminal structures. In the late stages of the disease, with the expressed changes of the person even criminal structures reject such patients from their sphere.

P55.09

Patient or client, what substance misuse attenders want to be called, who they want to be treated with, where they want to be seen

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150 UK substance misuse patients and 75 Spanish substance misuse patients were surveyed. The patients had drug, nicotine, alcohol problems, they were also a mixture of inpatient and outpatients. They were questioned on their preferences for been called patient or client, which patients they wanted to be treated with, which location they wanted to be seen. The author will present the results.

P55.10

Does cannabinoid exposure sensitize the brain to amphetamine effects?

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Cannabis use may enhance the vulnerability to the addictive effects of other drugs such as amphetamine and is therefore hypothesized as a "gateway-drug".

We studied whether pretreatment with the cannabinoid agonist WIN 55,212-2 alters the response to amphetamine in terms of DA levels in the nucleus accumbens as well as stereotypy and locomotor behaviors. Adolescent rats were treated with WIN 55,212-2 (1.25 mg/kg) once a day for five days. Following a seven-day drug-free period, an injection of amphetamine (0.5 mg/kg) or WIN 55,212-2 (1.25 mg/kg) was given. DA levels were analyzed using in vivo microdialysis. Stereotyped behavior, monitored as number of head-bobbings, were counted manually and locomotor behavior was measured in an activity chamber. Amphetamine caused a marked increase of DA and reduction of DOPAC and HVA levels, with no difference between WIN 55,212-2 pretreated and controls. Stereotyped behavior tended to be higher in animals pretreated with WIN 55,212-2, while locomotor activity tended to be lower in a dose-dependent manner. Overall, pretreatment with the cannabinoid agonist do not affect DA response but causes subtle behavioral alterations in response to amphetamine.

P55.11

Cocaine mediated dopamine transmission and behavior in depressed rats

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There is a strong comorbidity between depression and drug abuse that suggest a shared genetic vulnerability and a similar underlying neurobiology. Therefore we studied the cocaine response on behavior and on mesolimbic dopamine transmission in the