

The following comparisons reached statistical significance: the VAS score for craving at baseline was lower among retained clients at T30 ($p=0.01$) and T60 ($P=0.02$), and so was the OCDS compulsion score at baseline among retained clients at T30 ($p=0.04$); those receiving a psychopharmacological therapy after the start-up phase showed a better retention at T30 ($p=0.01$) and at T60 ($p=0.04$).

Conclusion: According to this preliminary analysis, alcohol-related symptom distress at baseline and lack of psychiatric medication after the intensive treatment phase are more frequently observed in early drop-out. Further analysis is necessary to identify true predictors of retention in a multivariate model.

P335

Positivity of borna disease virus (BDV) in patients with substance abuse

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Backgrounds and aims: BDV is a RNA virus belonging to the family Bornaviridae with a high affinity to the limbic system. BDV interferes with receptors in the CNS, causing changes in neurotransmitter systems, mood and behavioural changes. Higher positivity of BDV has been described in psychiatric patients during the acute course of disorders in comparison with remission and healthy individuals. Substance abuse is associated with behavioural, mood changes, craving, chronic course and high risk of relapses. These characteristics are explained by the influence of drugs and alcohol to opioid and dopamine systems accountable for the reward mechanism. We suppose higher BDV positivity in substance addict patients in the beginning of treatment, lower positivity due to the abstinence period associated with decrease of craving.

Methods: Examination of hospitalised patients for substance abuse according to ICD 10 for serum positivity of BDV infection (antigens-Ag, circulating immunocomplexes-CIC) by ELISA on day 1 and day 56 (2 months of abstinence). Evaluation of Questionnaire of Psychic Dependence on day 1 and 56.

Results: We have investigated 21 patients to day. Till December 2006 we suppose there will be minimally 30 investigated patients. We have at disposition results with statistical evaluation in February 2007.

Conclusions: Higher BDV positivity in substance addict patients can be associated with immune changes during abuse. BDV can influence through neurotransmitter systems (dopamine) behaviour of these patients (craving) and be associated with higher risk of relapse. Higher BDV positivity is supposed in the beginning of treatment and associated with more intensive craving.

P336

Alexithymia in patients with substance addiction being treated by cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy within Minnesota model treatment

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Background and aims: Alexithymia is the incapacity to identify and describe one's own feelings. Our study questions whether alexithymia is a constant personality "trait" or a "state" phenomenon occurring in addicted patients. Our hypothesis is that this may change with cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy.

Method: 96 patients (69 male and 27 female) suffering from multiple substance addictions defined by DSM-IV criteria participated in

group cognitive-behavioural treatment sessions, for a period of 8 weeks. The patients did not have concurrent psychotic and organic cerebral diseases, withdrawal syndrome, and were abstinent from psychoactive and substitution medication. Each patient was evaluated at the beginning of the first and the last week of psychotherapy according to Schalling-Sifneos Personality Scale Revised, State-Anxiety Inventory of Spilberger, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, Hopelessness Scale. Duration of the addiction, educational and social-economic states were analysed.

Results: 60% of patients (44% of female and 67% of male) were established as alexithymic. These patients showed the highest scores in all psychometric tests compared with non-alexithymic patients.

After cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy the majority of the patients improved their scores and only 30% of patients (22% of female and 33% of male) remained alexithymic. There are correlations between alexithymia and the severity of anxiety-depression manifestations, the duration of addiction, the educational and social-economic states.

Conclusion: Alexithymia is a "state" phenomenon within patients with substance addiction and can be improved with cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy.

P337

Aggregate - level beverage - specific effect of alcohol on alcoholism and alcohol psychoses rate

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Background: It is very important to monitor and analyze statistics on the adverse consequences of alcohol abuse. In fact, there is already a tradition of using the alcohol consumption per capita level as an index of magnitude of alcohol-related problems.

Statistical data of narcological service reports turns out to be a unique source of information regarding the problem.

Purpose: In the present paper we focused on the aggregate-level, beverage-specific effect of alcohol consumption on alcoholism and alcohol psychoses morbidity rate.

Method: Trends in alcoholism and alcohol psychoses morbidity rate and beverage-specific level of alcohol consumption per capita from 1970 to 2005 in Belarus were analyzed employing ARIMA analysis in order to assess bivariate relationship between time series.

Results: According to official statistics, alcohol psychoses rate increased 3.5 fold (from 6.8 to 23.7 per 100.000 of population) and alcoholism rate increased 6.0 fold (from 51.5 to 304.7 per 100.000 of population).

The results of analysis suggest close relationship between alcohol psychoses morbidity rate and total level of alcohol consumption per capita ($r = 0.72$; $SE = 0.18$), as well as strong spirits (vodka) consumption ($r = 0.47$; $SE = 0.18$).

Conclusion: The outcome of present study suggests that alcohol psychoses morbidity rate is considered to be reliable enough statistical index reflecting the level of alcohol-related problems in the society.

P338

Influence of childhood adhd history on personality traits of pathological gamblers

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