

Results: The both alcoholics showed impairment of perception and executive functions, but they did not notice it. After confrontation in the group they recognised their cognitive deficit and accepted that they had serious damage caused by alcohol, regardless of good medical condition. The clinical improvement was presented by improving in next drawings, and discussing in the group with more self-confidence.

Conclusion: Art therapy makes possible visual expression of emotions, perceptions and cognitions, and provide large variety of confrontation and support within group, thus facilitating integrative therapeutic process of alcoholics.

Keywords: alcoholism, drawings, art therapy, cognitive impairment, diagnosis, therapy.

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The changes of sex hormones among male alcoholics in the early abstinence

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Background and aims: The most prominent endocrinology disturbance among alcoholics is male hypogonadism. This paper deals with the effects of early abstinence on gonadal hormones.

Method: A total group of non-cirrhotic male primary alcoholics, without malnutrition, (N=40) aged from 20-60 years was consecutive recruited during inpatient treatment. They meet ICD-10 criteria for alcohol dependence and were compared with 20 matched healthy controls. The blood samples for testosterone, estradiol and SHBG (sex-hormone binding globuline) were collected at day 1 and 28. The plasma levels of hormones (RIA) differences between groups were tested by Student t-test.

Results: There was significant higher concentration of estradiol and SHBG at alcoholics vs. controls, and significant lower concentration of testosterone at alcoholics compared with controls. Repeated assessment after 28 days showed non-significant elevation of testosterone and decrease of SHBG, but significant decrease of estradiol. All values were between normal range.

Conclusion: There is trend of development of hypogonadism and secondary feminisation at male alcoholics without prominent liver damage, which may be transient and resolve during early abstinence.

Keywords: alcoholism, testosterone, estradiol, SHBG, abstinence.

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Correlates of nicotine dependence in a non-psychiatric sample

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Background: It is well documented that mental disorders and suicidal behavior are associated with tobacco smoking. However, investigations in which there is a distinction between high and low nicotine dependence are more recent. The purpose was to evaluate correlates associated with high nicotine dependence such as psychiatric morbidity, suicidal behavior, practice physical exercise and use of caffeine, alcohol and illegal drug.

Methods: The analysis was based on sample of 290 participants, ages varying from 18 to 65, in a primary health service of Granada (south of Spain). All of them were assessed with the Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence and with the General Health Questionnaire.

Results: The prevalence of current smoking was 34,5% and the prevalence of high nicotine dependence was 9,3%. Psychiatric

morbidity (GHQ-28>6), previous suicide attempts, lack of physical exercise, high caffeine intake and consumption of illegal drugs were significantly associated with high nicotine dependence. These results remained after controlling for gender or substance abuse. Also there was significant relationship between high nicotine dependence and antecedents of suicide attempts (OR=3,53; IC 95%:1,53–25,98). In the logistic regression model, after adjusting for sex and age, the differences remained statistically significant (OR=8,17; IC 95%:1,96–34,03), as well as the protective effect of married status (OR=0.08; IC 95%:0.01–0.72).

Conclusions: Smokers with high nicotine dependence should be distinguished from other smokers in evaluating health status populations. Serial cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of nicotine dependence are needed to determine whether certain groups are especially vulnerable to nicotine dependence when they start smoking.

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Role of methadone in post-war society

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Harm reduction program in Bosnia and Herzegovina exist only in a form of methadone treatment. This program started in early eighties of the last century.

During the war, this program was unfortunately interrupted, and it is revitalized at the beginning of 2002, as an answer to increasing number of addicts during the post-war period.

Recently, we started to make first steps in implementation of other harm reduction programs such as needle exchange, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and similar.

In this paper we will present three year experience in application of methadone in treatment in our Methadone Maintenance Treatment Center for 190 clients.

We will also try to present our experiences and effectiveness of this type of treatment through examples from practice, as well as by epidemiological and statistical data.

Keywords: Harm reduction, Methadone, Treatment, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Suicide in dual diagnosis patients

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Background: Patients suffering from both psychiatric disorders and substance abuse (SA) are titled "dual diagnosis patients" (DDP). SA is associated with suicidal behavior. Although our knowledge of SA and suicide behavior is increasing, we lack sufficient knowledge of suicide among DDP.

Objectives: To compare the suicide attempts rate among DDP and non-DDP; To compare the suicide attempts rate according to gender in DDP and non-DDP; To compare the suicide attempts rate according to substance in DDP.

Method: Analysis of consecutive admissions: men and women ages 18–65 in our center (06/2003–06/2005).

Results: Of 848 DDPs' admissions, 197 (23.2%) were after suicide attempt, whereas 403 of 2558 non-DDP's admissions (15.8%)