

P03-27 - DRUG USE AND AGE AT ONSET OF PSYCHOSIS

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Objective: We analyzed the association of age at onset of psychosis(AOP) with having a history of cannabis use in patients with a first episode of non-affective psychosis(FENAP) and investigated the impact on the AOP of exposure to cannabis in adolescence, compared with young adulthood, and of the additional exposure to cocaine.

Method: We recruited 112 consecutive patients with a FENAP. CIDI was used to assess drug use and to define the age at onset of heaviest use(AOHU) of a drug, as the age when drug was used the most for each patient. The effect of cannabis and cocaine AOHU on AOP was explored through Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests, and logistic regression. Sex-adjusted cumulative hazard curves and Cox regression models were used to compare the AOP of patients with and without a history of cannabis use, or associated cocaine use.

Results: AOP was significantly associated with the use of cannabis, independently of sex, use of cocaine, tobacco smoking or excessive alcohol consumption. There was a dose-response relationship between cannabis AOHU and AOP: the earlier the AOHU the earlier the AOP. Hazard curves showed that patients with a history of cannabis use had a higher hazard of having a first episode psychosis than the rest of the patients (sex-adjusted log rank $\chi^2=23.43, df=1, p< 0.001$). Their respective median AOP (25th, 75th percentiles) were 23.5 (21,28) and 33.5 years (27,45) (for log-transformed AOP, $t=5.6, df=110, p< 0.001$).

Conclusions: Our results are in favor of a catalytic role for cannabis use in onset of psychosis.