

ranging from 25% to 76%. Although remarkably safe, stimulant treatment is associated with potential shortcomings. Furthermore, adults with ADHD often suffer from concurrent disorders (anxiety, depression, tics and drug dependence) and stimulants are potentially abusable. Therefore a variety of alternative non-stimulants medications have been explored.

Methods: All available controlled trials of non-stimulants in adults ADHD patients were retrieved from Pubmed, PsycInfo and Mbase.

Results: Only 17 controlled trials have been published. The compounds used are: desipramine, atomoxetine, modafinil, nicotine, ABT 418, guanfacine, selegiline, bupropion, lithium and pycnogenol. Effects seen in uncontrolled studies are in general better than in well designed RCT's. Apart from trials with atomoxetine and bupropion the sample sizes are small. Most studies exclude patients with comorbid disorders, so that the study sample differs considerably from that in clinical practice. Most studies do not include assessment from significant others and some report improvement on a variety of neuropsychological measurements of executive functioning which cannot be translated into better daily functioning.

Conclusion: So far the non-stimulants are still hampered by their inferior effect size compared to stimulants, the need for daily dosing to maintain their clinical efficacy and a delay in the onset of their clinical effects.

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The disturbed parent-child communication after parental separation and its impact on the child's psychosocial adjustment

A. Beka. *Department of Psychiatry for Children and Adolescents, Thessaloniki, Greece*

In the present study we attempted to investigate the relationship between two parameters: (a) the disturbed communication between separated or divorced parents and their children, and (b) the psychosocial adaptation of the children. Moreover, we attempted to understand the impact of legal and judicial orders re child-related issues on the children's psychosocial development.

63 children and their divorced parents were studied in order to investigate the impact of (a) disturbed parent-child communication and (b) increased parental litigation re custody and access, on the child's psychosocial development. Parents and children were administered self-completed questionnaires, while semi-structured interviews were used with children. Measures of psychosocial adjustment included psychiatric diagnoses according to DSM-IV, with emphasis in Global Assessment Functioning in the 5th axis, as well as the Social Adjustment Scale (M. Weissman, 1975) and the Self-Esteem Index for Children (J. Battle, 1981). Results showed that, as for the custodial parent, the better the communication with him the better the child's adjustment and the higher his self-esteem, while, as for the non-custodial parent, the more frequent and the better the quality of communication with him, the better the child's adjustment, but not the higher its self-esteem. Finally, contrary to our hypothesis, the more parents litigated the better the child's psychosocial adjustment and the higher its self-esteem. In conclusion, the disturbed parent-child communication after parental divorce constitutes a significant risk factor for poor psychosocial development of the child.

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Forensic-psychiatric meaning of paranoid conditions with personality disorders

S.V. Danilova. *Serbsky Centre for Social and Forensic Psychiatry, Moscow, Russia*

The aim of the study is to specify criteria of expert evaluation of patients diagnosed as having Personality Disorders who have committed criminal offences. These patients have had paranoid ideas: supervaluable (überwertige idea by Wernicke), dominant pathological, paranoid delusional ideas.

115 patients (105 men, 10 women) have been examined in the study. Age: 20-69 years old. Diagnosis of Personality Disorders have been established according to the diagnostic criteria of the International Classification of Diseases, Traumas and Cause of Deaths: ICD-10 and also to the Classification of the American Psychiatric Association: DSM-IV. Diagnosis of Paranoid Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder were most common (73%).

The study has revealed that paranoid ideas have arisen after the prolonged psychological stress (infringement of family relations, job conflicts, unemployment and etc). Contents of the paranoid ideas (jealousy, querulous ideas, persecution ideas, and hypochondria) depended on characteristic of the stress.

Established: Patients who have had supervaluable ideas were responsible for their offences. Contents of the supervaluable ideas did not influence upon their criminal actions. These ideas were concrete, did not tend to expand and existed for a short time. Affective dominant ideas reflected the situation of criminal action. The patients could not forecast the consequence of their actions, so it was furnish condition. Patients with paranoid delusional ideas were considered to be irresponsible.

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Intervention strategies for stalking victims

H. Dressing, E. Schiefelbein, P. Gass. *Zentralinstitut für Seelische Gesundheit, Mannheim, Germany*

Background: Research on the effectiveness of different intervention strategies for stalking victims is scarce.

Aims: To present the "Mannheim Pilot Project on Stalking" that aims at linking-up different local activities for stalking victims.

Methods: An information centre at the prevention directorate of the police station and a cognitive group therapy for stalking victims were established.

Data of this research project are outlined.

Results: Requirements of stalkers are better complied with. Group therapy reduces stress and enables victims to cope with their problems more adequately.

More research on the effects of different interventions strategies is needed.

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Assessing the therapeutic process with the forensic operationalized therapy/risk evaluation system (FOTRES)

J. Endrass, C. Danielsson, F. Urbanik. *Crime Prevention Research Unit, Psychiatric/Psychological Service, Justice Department, Zurich, Switzerland*

Forensic prognostic instruments assess an offender's risk of re-offending. Thus they assign offenders to risk categories, which contain a certain probability of recidivism within a certain period of time after release from prison. Most instruments however do not