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The need for a specific therapeutic-rehabilitative group for cocaine addicted patients rises up both from the progressive increase of cocaine use in the general population and from peculiar personality traits and associated psychopathology of these clients. Moreover, it is difficult to maintain a compliance to therapy, because there are no specific anticraving or antidote drugs for cocaine addiction.

Therefore our equipe developed a short integrated treatment (ten weeks), of “group counselling” and “psychodynamic group therapy” in association. The group is open and composed by a maximum of eight participants.

The novelties of this model are: (1) hospital setting, (2) a short duration and (3) synergy between two different approaches: Minnesota 12 steps model (one sessions weekly, held by a counsellor on addiction), and a psychodynamic group therapy (one session weekly).

Main success is the retention of patients in therapy for a long time. In twenty months (March 2005- October 2006), forty cocaine-addicted patients started this program: only 30% of them dropped out, while 70% of patients completed the treatment. 64% of the latter were completely abstinent, while 36% relapsed during the therapy. All of them are still continuing some therapy at the moment: 46% individual psychotherapy, 25% individual psychotherapy and pharmacological therapy, 14% narcotics anonymous attendance, 11% N.A. groups and pharmacological therapy, 4% is in a T. C.

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Changes of the populations of patients in an addictive disorders service in Rome: 2001-2006

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In the last six years an increasing number of patients seeking care for cocaine dependence entered the Day Hospital program at Catholic University medical school, with a milder variation in the number of opioid dependent patients. The number of cocaine dependent patients doubled year by year from 15 pts in 2003, through 32 in 2004, to 60 in 2005; preliminary data from 2006 seem to follow this trend. A minority of patients are addicted to other drugs. This outgrowth in cocaine addicted patients could be related both to a wider diffusion of cocaine related problems in the general population in Italy¹ and to the institution of a specific program for cocaine related disorders in our service. The mean age of opioid dependent patients remained quite stable through years, with a slight increase from 32,1 years, with a standard deviation of 6,9 in 2001 to 33,5 with a SD of 7,0 in 2005. In the same years we observed a slight decrease in the mean age of cocaine patients, from 36,2 years with a SD of 11,2 in 2001 to 32,8 with a SD of 6,8 in 2005. Both substances are most commonly abused by men: 83,1% of cocaine dependent and 79,2% of opioid dependent patients are male, while only 16,1% of cocaine and 20,1% of opioid dependent patients are female.

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Description of a population of pathological gamblers attending a group therapy program in Rome

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Since November 2005 our institute has been developing a group therapy program for pathological gamblers, alternating a counselling/rehabilitation and a group psychotherapy session each week. This program was presented to the press; all of our patients knew about it from the newspapers, except for one patient, who was addressed to our service by another specialist.

Up to November 2006 fifteen patients joined the program: they are all male, their mean age is 46,8 years old, with a standard deviation of 11,7; eight of them (53,3%) are married, two are divorced (13,3%), one is separated from his wife (6,7%), one has a stable relationship (6,7%), while three of them are free (20%). Their education is generally low: one of them (6,7%) completed only primary schools, eight of them have a lower intermediate education (53,3%), five completed upper intermediate schools (33,3%), only one got a degree (6,7%). Some patients have an associated psychopathology: four (26,7%) have a depressive disorder, three (20%) have a bipolar disorder II, three (20%) have a history of cocaine abuse, one (6,7%) has a mild cognitive impairment related to a Parkinson's Disease. Seven patients (46,7%) have gambling debts or legal problems related to gambling. The most popular games among patients were betting, lotto, slot machine, videopoker and in some cases card game.

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Alcohol consumption situation among drivers and citizens delivered in a republican narcological clinic on survey for infringement of the legislation in dynamics

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Introduction: For the last three years (2004-2006) the situation in the Chechen republic began to vary towards normalization. Reduction of uneasiness and affective frustration occurred for the last few years gradually

Material and methods of research: The total number of surveyed has made 5888 persons. The analysis of all acts on years, on age (up to 20 years, up to 30 years, up to 40 years, up to 50 years) was carried out. Drivers, in their turn have been divided in two groups: those who made transport incidents and those who didn't.

Results and their discussion: The number of delivered on toxicological survey for intoxication tends to growth occurs on a background of sharp growth of delivered drivers suffered in a road accidents (162,322,381-accordingly).

To estimate the general tendency in the attitude relation alcohol consumption of the population materials of survey of the persons who were not driving motor transport were analyzed by us as well, but delivered for infringement of the administrative legislation by law enforcement bodies. In 2004 was 72 persons was delivered. In 2005-487, in 2006 860 persons have already delivered. The share of drunk from the general number of delivered changes within the limits of 68,79,4 and 67,3 percent. Thus there is a tendency to growth of alcohol consumption in a younger age under 30 years.