

acts of prison inmates are obligatory reported to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice by all Austrian prison administrations. These data contain various suicidological, psychiatric, demographical, psychological, social, contextual, biographical, and institutional variables. As yet, these prospective data cover 4 years (1996–99) and comprise over 300 reported suicidal acts, including more than 50 inmate suicides. The present contribution gives an interim report of this prospective study. Specifically, main emphasis is put on the estimation of current suicide and suicide attempt rates within prison inmates in Austria, on the distribution of suicide and suicide attempt methods, and on risk factors for suicidal behavior identified within this investigation. The most pronounced risk factors and features for male prison suicide – either single, or in typical combinations – turned out to be: hanging as suicide method, solitary cell, imprisonment on remand or long confinement, but rather short period of imprisonment, ages 30 to 40, no evident suicide announcement, no suicide note, no previous suicide attempt, no previous psychiatric utilization or institutionalization, but utilization of counseling or psychiatric services in the prison. The interim results support the existence of certain high risk- constellations for prison inmate suicide under contemporary detention environments, that should be taken into account in prison suicide prevention models.

P03.440 DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS AND ANXIETY DISORDERS IN PATIENTS DIALYSED DUE TO CHRONIC RENAL INSUFFICIENCY

G. Sikora*, A. Klimowicz. *Psychotherapy Dept. Jagiellonian Univ. Krakow, Poland*

Together with the development of the dialysis treatment we notice a importance influence of the mental state of dialysed patients in the course of the disease and in the somatic treatment. Particular attention is paid to depressive and anxiety disorders, both due to a possibility that their influence is of the most importance and to their common occurring.

The group of 60 patients aged 26–81, treated with dialysis (30 with hemodialysis and 30 with peritoneal dialysis) due to the chronic, renal insufficiency was examined. The duration of the treatment has lasted from 0.5 to 10 years. The mental state was estimated according to the 5 axes of the DSM-IV. Additionally, the SCL-90R questionnaire and the DFS scale of defense mechanisms were used.

In 15 of those examined were identified affective disorders (depressive disorder and dysthymia) and in 4 were identified anxiety disorders. We looked for factors deciding about appearing these syndroms.

Social functioning and the level of the defence mechanisms were considered to be amongst the most vital factors. Existence of the mechanism of a vicious circle binding depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, the somatic condition of patients and psychosocial functioning was considered.

P03.441 INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM ON CRIMINAL OFFENCES

T. Žarkovic Palijan*, M. Kovac, D. Kovacevic. *Neuropsychiatric hospital "Dr. Ivan Barbot", Popovača, Department for forensic psychiatry, Croatia*

The role of alcohol in genesis of criminal manifest itself in two basic directions:

- *direct influence* of alcohol in committing crime act

- *indirect influence* where alcohol has indirect effects on patients under permanent mental disorder

The perpetrators who committed criminal offenses under the influence of alcoholism as primary illness or as symptoms of other mental illnesses are situated on department for forensic psychiatry.

We are going to present the statistical part of alcoholics and symptomatic alcoholism (in relation to varieties of criminal offenses) in our paper.

The study has been made on survey of 238 patients who were all men.

These groups are distinguished:

1. Patients with alcoholism as primary illness
2. Schizophrenic patients with symptomatic alcoholism
3. Patients under temporary influence of alcohol in whose basic structure is personality disorder
4. Other patients who consumed alcohol in specified situations

All obtained results will be presented analysed and statistically processed.

P03.442 IMPAIRED CONDITIONAL DISCRIMINATION LEARNING IN PATIENTS WITH SOCIAL PHOBIA

G. Sachs*, K. Dantendorfer, P. Andercr, M. Eberstaller, B. Saletu, H. Katschnig. *Department of Psychiatry, University of Vienna, Austria*

Background: An eyelid conditional discrimination learning (ECDL) task, which has been shown to selectively test temporal lobe function, was used to examine unconscious discrimination learning capacity in social phobia (SP) patients to test the hypothesis that in SP the ability to differentiate between significant (i.e. dangerous) and insignificant stimuli could be impaired.

Methods: 25 unmedicated SP patients (mean age 29.5 ± 7.0) diagnosed according to DSM-IV criteria and 25 gender and age matched healthy controls (HC) (mean age 34.0 ± 8.6) were examined. In the ECDL experiment two differently colored stimuli are randomly presented. Only one of the stimuli is followed by an aversive airpuff to the cornea (a "reinforced trial") as opposed to "unreinforced trials" not followed by an airpuff. Conditioned responses (CR; reflexory eyelid closures already upon light presentation) were scored separately for both trial types.

Results: HC as well as SP patients showed a significant difference between reinforced and unreinforced trials ($p = .008$ and $p = 0.017$ for HC and SP, respectively). However, HC were superior in discrimination ability as compared to SP for reinforced trials ($p = .039$). Concerning discrimination learning HC steadily increased CR frequency on reinforced trials during the course of the experiment but in SP patients, CR frequency did not increase during ECDL task. Thus SP patients were not able to benefit from the information contained in the task

Conclusions: This is the first experimental study showing that there is a reduced discrimination learning capacity in SP patients. As was shown in a previous study panic disorder patients failed to develop any conditional discrimination ability, therefore in SP patients impairment lies between normal controls and panic disorder patients. Similar to preliminary neuroimaging results our study points out further evidence for temporal lobe dysfunction in SP.