

P25 *Environmental psychiatry***CEREBROLYSIN FOR PSYCHO-ORGANIC SYNDROME EARLY STAGES**

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The study investigated people involved in the elimination of the Chernobyl NPP accident consequences and revealed disorders which combined asthenic, somatoform and affective disturbances together with memory and attention impairment as well as intellectual deficit. In addition to these mental disorders a complicated complex of polysystemic somatic diseases together with neurological disturbances of dyscirculatory encephalopathy pattern were registered. Following previous therapeutic work, poor toleration for psychotropics in this group of patients was taken into account. 78 patients were included in a comparative therapeutic study. They were prescribed the following medication: piracetam with benzodiazepines (n=29), cerebrolysin intravenous 20ml (n=39), and the duration of treatment was 4 months. The results showed that piracetam with benzodiazepines had a positive influence on the asthenic symptoms without any effect on cognitive processes. Cerebrolysin improved all the functions including cognitive ones. Neuropsychological investigation also confirmed this data.

P27 *Environmental psychiatry***ADOLESCENTS WITH PROBLEMS ADAPTING TO BOARDING SCHOOL - GROUP WORK**

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Adolescents graduating from elementary school (at age 15 years) from various parts of the country come to Belgrade to continue their education. Most are accommodated in boarding schools and have to adapt to (i) separate from families and friends, (ii) living in collective accommodation, (iii) establishment of new relationships, (iv) living in an urban environment, (v) problems concerning hard economic situations and bad living conditions related to the war.

Since 1994, weekly group meetings have been held with 10-12 students, mostly newcomers. The main purpose is to (i) encourage open talk and help the students to overcome adaptation problems; (ii) emotional discharging; (iii) stimulate the adolescents to take responsibility for their lives; (iv) to encourage communal living among young people from different environments, (v) to sensitive tutors in boarding schools to understand the problems of adolescents.

The paper discusses in detail the session topics, the conduct of the group discussions and the dynamics between the group members in order to help the adolescents overcome problems of adaptation.

P26 *Environmental psychiatry***THE CHANGING PATTERN OF FIRST ADMISSION RATES FOR MAJOR PSYCHOSES IN ITALY**

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A recent increase in first admission rates for major psychoses in Italy are analysed according to regional distribution for hospitalization between 1982 and 1983. The indicators used included Gross Domestic Product per capita, internal consumers per capita, marriage rates, separate and divorce rates. Data was taken from the Italian National Institute for Statistical Analysis. It indicates that there has been a significant rise in first admission rates for schizophrenia, paranoia and mania but not for major depression. For paranoia and mania, admission rates have doubled. The increase is greater in areas where there are more health facilities and in areas where the structures have been improved or are still efficient. There is no association between social and economic indicators and the trend in admission rates, but for schizophrenia there is a significantly positive association between admission rates and regional indicators of wealth. However there is also a negative relationship between admission rates for schizophrenia and indicators of marriage and social integration. These findings suggest that increased hospitalization results from social causes and the fact that health facilities are more available. In addition, an increase in psychic distress in the general population and a reduction in tolerance of mental suffering both by patients and their families may also be a contributing factor. An increase in the number of suicides in the same period may also agree with this hypothesis.

P28 *Environmental psychiatry***THE EVALUATION OF THE STRESS OF WAR ON PATIENTS AFFECTED BY PTSD**

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**Objective:** To study characteristic and quantitative aspects of war stressors and their connection with post traumatic symptoms.

**Method:** 100 war veterans of the 1991 war were given a self-evaluation questionnaire on sensitivity and vulnerability to war stressors based on a compiled scale evaluating character and intensity of 22 typical war stressors. The diagnostic evaluation was performed in accordance with the DSM-III classification and the standardized PTSD interview.

**Results:** The intensity of war stress and the duration of PTSD were in positive correlation. Most participants had been heavily affected by the death of their fellow combatants, seeing mutilated bodies of victims particularly children, while they were less affected by their own exposure to mortal danger and material loss.

**Conclusions:** The results proved that subjective evaluation of the intensity of war stressors could be an important variable in the prediction of sensitivity on and vulnerability to war trauma. The correlation between PTSD and quantitative and qualitative dimensions of war stressors was also found.