

The question “What is it like to be addicted?” is considered in a phenomenological approach. Normally in the psychiatric discourse addiction is understood as following more or less the original paradigm of “dependency”. This paradigm claims that the addicted depends lifelong and unchangeable upon his drug or “psychotropic technique”. Innerperspective understandings as well as therapeutic interests contradict this unchangeability in their attempt to help the addicted achieving goals such as harm reduction or teetotalism. Strictly understood this would lead to a contradiction in terms of the psychiatric understanding of addiction. Solutions to this problem rely on the dynamics in the process of becoming addicted. In this sense a possible understanding of addiction is presented. Via the idea of “the psychotropic technique becoming absolute” – which can especially be found in the writings of William S. Burroughs – both sides of the psychiatric understanding are combined and integrated. The addicted self and its self-awareness are then understandable as a “fragile monoidentity”. Implications of such an understanding are discussed.

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Alcohol-related problem and adolescence crisis

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Background: youths almost use alcohol or drugs the first time under peer pressure and they want to be accepted and be a part of the group. Using the alcohol they behavior have changed. Alcohol also caused the problems with friendship, family/parents, school, community, law, etc.

Methods: the sample of 20 youth patients (15 male and 5 female) under the age of 16 – 25 were conducted between January – June 2006. on the Department of alcoholism in the Institute on addictions, Belgrade. Data were collected from patient’s history of illness, clinical protocols and psychiatric interviews including the criteria of alcohol abuse and adolescence crisis according to ICD – X.

Aim: to show that alcohol abuse in adolescence period is not just a developmental course, but more serious problem with consequences on behavior and social relationships.

Results:

- 1) to take the other drugs (canabinoides, Ecstasy, sedatives): 11 patients (55%);
- 2) marked fall in academic: 9 patients(45%);
- 3) family problem: 20 patients (100%);
- 4) auto destructive behavior: 7 patients (35%);
- 5) behavior changes (aggressive, hostile, etc.) : 13 patients (65%);
- 6) problem with law: 8 patients (40%);
- 7) risky behavior (unprotected sex): 17 patients(85%).

Conclusions: this study shows that developmental transitions, such as puberty and increasing independence, have been associated with alcohol abuse. Just being an adolescent may be a key risk factor for drinking dangerously and consequential alcohol-related problems.

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Youths binge drinking - the pathways to be dependent

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Background: alcohol is the widespread among youths and the drug of choice. Many young people are experiencing the aversive

symptoms as consequences of drinking too much, at too early of age. Research shows that many alcohol dependent patients start to drink at very young age as a binge drinkers. New research shows that the serious drinking problems typically associated with middle age actually begin to appear much earlier, during young adulthood and period of adolescence.

Methods: data were collected from medical history, psychiatric and clinical records. The 150 male patients were treated for alcohol dependent on the Department of alcoholism (DA) in Institute of addictions, Belgrade, between May 2005- 2006, including the criteria of alcohol dependent according to ICD – X.

Aim: the study shows does adolescence binge drinking may lead to alcohol dependent at middle age and alcoholism at all.

Results: the total of 150 male patients with alcohol dependent at presence, 90 patients (60%) were experiencing of binge drinking before age of 15; 50 patients (33,3%) at age of 15 – 20; 10 patients (6,66%) at age of 20>.

Conclusion: the most of treated and observed male patients on DA who were binge drinking in young adulthood period are alcohol dependent at present and diagnosis verifications by the criteria from ICD-X. Youth and teenage drinking problem may lead to be a pathway for serious adult problem – alcohol dependent and alcoholism, as a developmental and behavior framework.

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The relationship between development identity and internet addiction

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Background: Computer and Internet use by children and adolescents is widespread and begins at an early age. They commonly use computers for playing games, completing school assignments, email, and connecting to the Internet. On-line, the most frequent activities are school work, email, games, and finding information. We investigated factors that influence adolescents’ engagement in risky Internet behavior, in particular the factors relating to development identity.

Methods: All the students, aged between 15 to 18 years old, come from 7 high schools of Iasi. The authors examined the online construction of identity at 283 teenagers, who had been involved in an online activities and completed a survey to assess relationships among development identity and (a) amount of Internet use (with the identification of a possible computer addiction), (b) the interference of excessive use with school grades and social life;

Results indicated that the following factors were found to be predictors of adolescents development: frequency of Internet use, frequency of chatting, parental rules, type of personal information given out, amount of inappropriate messages received, whether inappropriate websites have been visited, and type of internet advice heard.

Conclusions: Our results showed a significant positive correlation between measures of Internet use and time spent online for the Internet. Implications for and development as impacted by social support networks, are discussed. Finally, Internet use was associated with identity status. These results suggest that the Internet may be an important aid for teenager as they searched for an young identity.