PLASMA LEPTIN IN PATIENTS WITH EATING DISORDERS
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A decreased production of leptin has been reported in women with anorexia nervosa (AN) and has been attributed to the patients' reduced body fat mass. The extent to which eating patterns, purging behaviour, psychopathology and endocrine changes may contribute to the genesis of leptin alterations has not been deeply investigated. We measured plasma levels of leptin, glucose and other hormones in three groups of eating disorder patients with different body weight (BW), eating patterns and purging behaviours. Sixty-seven women (21 with AN, 32 with bulimia nervosa, BN, and 14 with binge-eating disorder, BED) and 25 healthy females volunteered for the study. We found that circulating leptin was significantly reduced in AN (p < 0.0001) and BN (p < 0.0001) patients, but significantly enhanced in women with BED (p < 0.005). In anorexics, plasma glucose was decreased (p < 0.02), whereas plasma cortisol was enhanced (p < 0.005). Plasma concentrations of 17beta-estradiol and prolactin (PRL) were reduced in AN (p < 0.0001 and p < 0.0001), BN (p < 0.0001 and p < 0.005), and BED (p < 0.0001 and p < 0.02) patients. In all subject groups, a strong positive correlation emerged between plasma levels of leptin and the subjects' BW or body mass index, but not between leptin and psychopathological measures, plasma glucose, cortisol, PRL and 17beta-estradiol. Since leptin was reduced in both underweight anorexics and normal weight bulimics, but increased in overweight BED women, who compulsively binge without engaging in compensatory behaviours, we suggest that factors other than BW may play a role in the determinism of leptin changes in eating disorders.

CROSS-CULTURAL ASPECT OF ALCOHOL USE AND MISUSE
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It is common knowledge that tradition can either contribute to the development of a dependence or be protective factors in this respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, how the attitude of the Muslim towards a. changes when it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect. It may become of respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect. It may become of respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect. It may become of respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect. It may become of respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect. It may become of respect. Low average level of a. consumption in Muslim countries, it is common knowledge, that tradition can either contributed to the development of a. dependence or be protective factors in this respect.
Conclusions: First-episode psychosis African-Caribbean patients show less neurological abnormalities than White British patients. This might indicate different risk factors for developing psychosis in the two groups.

P01.138
THE INFLUENCE OF FAMILIAL LOADING ON THE COURSE OF SCHIZOPHRENIC SYMPTOMS AND THE SUCCESS OF PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL THERAPY

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Psychoeducational and cognitive-behavioral interventions for schizophrenic outpatients and their key persons have had impressive long-term effects on the course of schizophrenic illness in terms of a markedly reduced rehospitalization rate. However, they appear to have no overall impact on psychopathological symptoms. This prospective study examines the influence of familial loading on the course of schizophrenic illness and the extent to which this is modifiable by psychoeducational training as a form of psychotherapy.

191 schizophrenic patients enrolled in the study were allocated by random into four different treatment groups and one control group. 40% of the patients had mentally ill relatives, 20% without. Familial loading contributes substantially to a high rehospitalization rate and a poor outcome of schizophrenic patients. Psychoeducational interventions are an appropriate means of arresting this unfavorable development.

P01.139
TREATMENT OF SICK DOCTORS. THE EXPERIENCE OF A SPECIALIZED UNIT

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Sick doctors are a relevant problem for the Health System. The College of Physicians of Barcelona created in 1998 a specialized treatment program with inpatient and outpatient facilities, were 106 doctors have been treated during 1998 and 1999. Mean age of sick doctors was 46.7 years. 79% of the sample were men, mainly living in Barcelona (80%). Main diagnosis at entry was alcoholism in 32% of cases, other addictions in 21%, and mental diseases in 47% doctors. 12% of sick doctors approached the program under the pressure of Medical Institutions, while 24% approached it through the suggestions of colleagues. The remaining 64% came either on a voluntary basis or pressed by their relatives. 25% of the cases have undergone inpatient treatment with a mean length of stay of 30 days.

The main features of the Program as well as clinical results will be discussed.