

In the Chechen republic among the drivers delivered to survey the age over 40 years prevails. Among delivered for infringement of a social order that of under 30 years

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Safe consumption rooms – A project for the future?

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The safe consumption rooms (DCRs) are integrated in programs to reduce drug-related harms. These places have developed since the mid-1980s, and now-a-days they exist in a lot of European countries, and also in Canada and Australia. The authors describe historic data as well as the main purposes, physical and human conditions, and typical users of DCRs, and make a review about studies concerning results and evaluation of their impact.

Arguments supporting and rejecting DCRs are presented and discussed. The particular case of Portugal is also mentioned, referring the law and the real actual situation. The authors support the idea that, while the benefits should not be exaggerated, these facilities can make a positive contribution to reducing drug-related harms in Portugal, in a future not so distant.

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New drugs in the treatment of tobacco addiction

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Background and aims: Both psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy approaches are needed to a successful treatment of tobacco addiction. Until now, bupropion and nicotine substitutes were the more important pharmacological agents, but things are becoming to change.

Methods: The authors make a review about the new drugs available.

Results: Varenicline tartrate has been approved by FDA in May of 2006, and preliminary studies of efficacy reveal percentages of tobacco cessation even higher than bupropion. Rimonabant is another new drug with potential utility in tobacco addiction. It is the first selective blocker of cannabinoid receptors CB1. Selegiline and Topiramate can be useful in cases of comorbidity or resistance to other drugs, but they need more studies to establish their utility in treatment of tobacco addiction. Antinicotinic vaccines are also been discussed, because they could reduce the cerebral distribution of nicotine, and then act in the positive reinforcement of tobacco addiction.

Conclusions: Varenicline and rimonabant are two promising drugs in pharmacological treatment of tobacco addiction

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Quantitative EEG after activation methods in chronic patients with alcohol dependence

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Background and aims: In our study, the magnitude of EEG power spectra of delta, theta, alpha and beta power was examined to address the relationship between EEG spectral changes after activation methods and alcohol dependence. Electroencephalography has shown that the brain activity of alcoholics and nonalcoholics differs in some characteristic ways. These differences are consistent with an imbalance between excitation and inhibition processes in the brains of alcoholics.

Methods: We examined eyes-closed resting EEG and EEG after activation procedures (eyes-open, hyperventilation). A group of 54 male chronic alcoholics were selected according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. We compared this group with 54 age- and gender-matched control subjects from the group of healthy volunteers. All subjects in both groups were Caucasians.

Results: Our results in power spectra of activated EEG (after eyes-open period, hyperventilation) showed statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods between alcohol dependent patients and healthy volunteers. Our data manifested significant contrast in modulation of alpha activity after EEG activation using eyes-open test.

Conclusions: In previous studies researchers compared eyes-closed resting EEG spectra in alcohol dependent study participants and age- and gender-matched control subjects. The present study reported statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods in both groups. Hence, the EEG spectra after activation methods in children of alcoholic, especially before alcohol exposure, need to be examined to consider these differences in reactivity to activation methods as an endophenotype marker of chronic alcoholism.

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Designing and evaluation of reliability and validity of a visual cue – induced craving assessment task for intravenous heroin users

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Introduction: we evaluate the effects of a diverse set of visual cues on subjective craving for intravenous heroin users (IHUs) then; we designed and assessed reliability and validity of a Visual Cue – Induced Craving Assessment Task (VCICT) for induction of subjective craving among IHUs.

Methods: first, five sessions were held with IHUs groups to provide a list of visual signs that might evoke heroin craving. According to this list, needed photographs provided from real situations. Intravenous Heroin Users were asked to score the severity of their craving induced by each photo on a self report. Second, for designing of VCICT, we used ten most provocative cues. We used the Opiate Withdrawal Symptoms Checklist (OWSC) before and after exposure to cues, Barret Impulsivity Scale (BIS) and the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). 30 male IHUs entered this study before treatment.

Results: packed and open powder of heroin, injecting syringe and act of injection had the largest effect on induction of craving. VCICT score was significantly correlated with drug component of ASI and the post exposure score in OWSC that shows the validity of task. Test–retest of cue exposure with one day interval showed higher level of reliability (82%). Responder group to VCICT (17 out of 30) showed higher level of cognitive impulsivity.

Conclusion: These findings let researchers assess cue induced craving as the main predictor of treatment failure. Personality characteristics and addiction severity differences between responder and non-responders to cue induced craving demonstrate underlying structures of substance abuse.

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Impulsive personality characteristics of homeless HIV(+) iv heroin users (IHU) in comparison with homeless HIV(-) IHUs and non-homeless HIV(-) IHUs

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Introduction: Heroin injection is the most prevalent registered cause of HIV transmission in Iran. Regarding the high prevalence of intravenous heroin use among homeless in Tehran; Iran Police force and Ministry of Health collaborated in a national project of capture and reference of these high risk group for opium detoxification using methadone maintenance therapy. we examined impulsive personality characteristics among captured homeless HIV positive or negative IHUs and compared them to their matched none captured, none homeless casually referred cases of intravenous heroin users (IHUs).

Methods: Two groups of HIV positive (25 cases) and HIV negative (25 cases) of Homeless IHUs had been compared to 50 cases of nonhomeless IHUs. we used Eysenk Impulsiveness Questionnaire-7 (EIQ), Barret Impulsiveness Scale-11 (BIS), and Delayed Discounting Task. Results: More prison history, criminal behaviors and longer history of needle sharing and drug abuse have been observed in homeless IHUs. More Impulsiveness indexes according to BIS, EIS and more delayed discounting had been observed in this group. And less venturesomeness measured by EIQ incentive. In the homeless IHUs who were HIV positive, more cognitive impulsivity detected according to EIQ and BIS tools.

Discussion: Significant increase in impulsivity among homeless IHUs and lower life expectancy in addition to more needle sharing behavior in this group can be a clue for HIV transmission spread among this group. High degree of impulsivity alteration and longer history of addiction period, dose and frequency of needle sharing are among the other factors which may predict the risk of HIV spread among homeless IHUs.

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Efficacy of olanzapine in antisocial opioid substance abusers

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Background: Antinociceptive activity of Olanzapine was demonstrated in animals and is a useful drug in controlling of aggression. This study evaluated the efficacy of this drug in treatment of patients that were dependant to Opioids (Opium and Heroin) and had Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Methods: During 6 month (2004) study 36 cases with Opioids substances dependency evaluated and 24 of them introduced as main study group with Antisocial Personality Disorder. Clinical interview and MMPI-2 test has been used in this process. All patients received clonidine and analgesics and 12 of them received

Olanzapine 10-30 mg/day. Patients evaluated after one month of treatment.

Results: Compliance for treatment during One month was better (10 of 12 cases = 83.3%) in cases that have been received Olanzapine than versus group (4 of 12 cases = 33.3% $P < 0.05$). Frequently reported symptoms in second group were irritability (100%), verbal and physical hostility (100%, 84%) and restlessness (100%).

Conclusion: In patients with Opioids dependency and concomitant Antisocial Personality Disorder usefulness of Olanzapine may be in focus of attention in new researches. This drug improves the compliance of treatment especially in acute withdrawal phase.

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Influence of drug misuse in psychiatric inpatient's evolution

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Background and aims: Frequency of drug misuse has increased in the society and also in psychiatric patients. It's known that drugs have a negative influence in psychiatric pathology, so its identification is very important for a better prognosis.

We aim to demonstrate that drug misuse draws out the stay in hospital of psychiatric patients and increases the number of readmissions needed, basing the hypothesis on our laboratory information of drug screening in a psychiatric hospital.

Material and methods: It is analyzed, retrospectively, all admission to a short stay unit in a psychiatric hospital in 2000 and 2005, and compared all patient with a positive result in a urine sample obtained by a drug screening protocol with the rest of admissions to that unit, measuring in both groups the number of readmissions, and the extension of hospitalization.

Results: Our hypothesis is confirmed, being the number of readmissions more frequent and the extension of hospitalization longer when patients are drug-users.

Conclusion: Prevalence of drug misuse has met increased in the last decade and more frequently among mental patients. Drug misuse difficults psychiatric treatments and increases sanitary expenses, being important stablishing diagnostic and treatment measures to face this problem. So it's important to take under consideration that this behaviour affects negatively in the progress of hospitalization, as proved in our investigation.

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Alcohol and psychiatric co-morbidity

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Psychiatric co-morbidity in alcohol dependent individuals has been an issue of growing interest for researchers, what is in part justified by the influence of the dependence on the psychiatric morbidity's diagnosis, treatment and prognosis, and vice versa.

After a brief exposition about co-morbidity's concepts, the authors present the results of a retrospective study, based on the collection of data from clinical records of 106 inpatients, who all had an F10 (CID 10) diagnosis at discharge (Mental and Behaviour Disturbances due to the consumption of alcohol). The others psychiatric diagnoses were taken into account, as well as socio-demographic features and other relevant clinical variables.