

IS CHILDHOOD TRAUMA A MEDIATOR FOR COCAINE INDUCED PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS?

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Introduction: Cocaine users often experience transient psychotic symptoms following cocaine use (Smith et al. 2009). The severity of such psychotic symptoms is influenced by cocaine dose (Vorspan et al. 2011). Several authors observed a higher prevalence of childhood trauma in cocaine addicts than control subjects (Enoch et al. 2010).

Objective: Describe cocaine induced psychosis and evaluate if it is associated with childhood trauma.

Aim: Define the population of cocaine users who experiment cocaine induced psychotic symptoms.

Method: We did a transversal retrospective study. 100 outpatient cocaine users were evaluated with Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms of Crack Induced Psychosis (SAPS-CIP) and Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ). Informations were obtained about lifetime cocaine use (age of onset, DSM IV dependence criteria, route of administration, daily dose, days of use per month).

Results: We did not observe any link between SAPS-CIP and CTQ or CTQ and cocaine consumption. About cocaine consumption, more often patients took cocaine during the worst period, higher is the SAPS-CIP score. If patients are (or were) dependent to cocaine, they have higher scores on SAPS-CIP. Moreover, if patients took cocaine intravenously, they have higher scores on SAPS-CIP than if they took it by snorting, or smoking.

Conclusion: In the conditions of our study, childhood trauma isn't a mediator for cocaine induced psychosis. About psychotic symptoms, they seem to be more severe among daily cocaine dependents who take it intravenously.