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PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOLISM ON PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Clinical practice and recent investigations have demonstrated high rates of alcohol abuse in seriously mentally ill patients. Schizophrenics appear to be particularly susceptible to the negative effects of alcohol abuse and they differ from non-abusing schizophrenics in a variety of clinical symptoms and features. These include both psychiatric and social complications. This study aimed to investigate the prevalence of alcohol consumption by chronic schizophrenic patients. The subjects had been diagnosed with chronic schizophrenia (ICD-10 criteria) with many prior hospitalizations with a mean duration of 8.5 years. The diagnostic procedure for alcoholism (abuse and dependence according to ICD-10 criteria) included a detailed interview about sociodemographic data, individual alcohol history, physical examination and the screening of various laboratory showed that alcoholism in chronic schizophrenic patients is common and more prevalent than in the general population.

P161 Psychopathology and psychotherapies THE USE OF VIDEO IN BRIEF PSYCHIATRY

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Objective: to evaluate the clinical impact of the use of video recording in brief psychotherapy.

Method: 8 young adults with adjustment disorders (F43.2 ICD-10) had ten filmed sessions each. After each session the therapist analyses his interaction with the patient by watching the video. At the end of the therapy, both therapist and patient view the first recorded session to assess the brief intervention.

Results: By looking at himself at work, the therapist can identify mistakes, anything overlooked, and emotional reactions (fear, irritability) in his own behaviour. This is then taken into account in the next session. By confronting themselves with their image patients realize their attitudes (withdrawn, stuttering, mute) and their development throughout the therapy.

Conclusion: The use of video in brief psychotherapy enhances the amount of information about therapist and patient and their interaction and so broadens psychodynamic interpretations. It could be seen as a variable to influence the results of psychotherapy. To reduce subjectivity of interpretations of the therapist, a further study will take place where video recordings are submitted to a supervisor.

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A follow-up study of french suicidal adolescents

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Objective: The social, medical and psychological outcome of 552 adolescents hospitalised subsequent to attempting suicide was assessed after an average 5 year follow-up period.

Method: Evaluation took place by means of mailed questionnaires completed by the adolescents, their parents and the general practitioner. Using regression analysis, responses were compared with those of a control group (N=273).

Results: The results revealed that in the suicidal group, the mean annual mortality rate was 7-fold greater compared with a population of the same age; education level was lower, and the consumption of alcohol, psychiatric hospitalisation, and contacts with the criminal justice system were more frequent than in the control group. No other variables explored were significantly different between the two groups.

Conclusion: Suicidal adolescents constitute a group at risk not only of mortality, but also in their ultimate medicopsychosocial development.

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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS UNDERGOING PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT

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Objective: to investigate abnormalities in the physical development of schoolboys treated as psychiatric in-patients.

Method: All the patients had nonpsychotic mental disorders and were treated in Tartu University Psychiatric Hospital in 1994 and 1995.

Anthropological investigation was made according to the rules of R. Martin (1957). Height and weight assessments were carried out by J. Aul's assessment scales (1978). The arm circumference and triceps skinfold were assessed using A. R. Frischano standards (1981). Results: The mean age of the boys investigated (n=100) was 11.51±2.28 years. According to our investigation, 26% of boys had disturbances in height and 23% had disturbances in weight. Conclusion: According to the investigation made, disturbances in physical development are frequent and follow-up should include the physical development of the patient.