THE INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS IN THE CHILDREN FROM BELARUS EXPOSED IN UTERO FOLLOWING THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

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The study examined psychological development in 250 children at 6-7 and 10-12 years of age from regions highly contaminated by Chernobyl fallout, who were irradiated in the prenatal period at the time of the Chernobyl accident in 1986. These children were compared to a control group of 250 children of the same age from non- and slightly contaminated areas of Belarus. The examination included psychiatric examination and assessment of intellectual level as well as the estimation of thyroid exposure in utero. The mean and median of prenatal thyroid doses for the exposed group exposed group 0.39 and 0.23 Gy were significantly higher that for the control group 0.04 and 0.01 Gy (P < 0.001). At the age of 6-7 years the children of the exposed group had a mean full-scale IQ lower than the control group (89.6 ± 10.2 vs 92.1 ± 10.5, P = 0.007). At the age of 10-12 years there were no statistically significant differences between the two groups (94.3 ± 10.4 vs 95.8 ± 10.9, P = 0.117). No statistically significant differences in average IQ were found between the subgroups of children in relation to the gestational age at the time of the Chernobyl accident. The relative risk of OR = 2.67 (P < 0.001) has been estimated for emotional disorders. The frequency of mental retardation, disturbance of activity and attention, and other mental and behavioural disorders in children from both groups was approximately the same. We conclude that probably a significant role in the genesis of borderline intellectual functioning and emotional disorders in the exposed group of children was played by unfavourable social-psychological and social-cultural factors such as a low educational level of parents, the break of microsocial contacts and adaptational difficulties, which appear following the evacuation and relocation from the contaminated areas.

ELDERLY MEN LONELINESS: CONTRIBUTION INTO DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SEXUAL ISOLATION

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The elderly age is characterized not only by weakening of sexual function capacities but by certain psychological features. One of them among those is loneliness. Loneliness is often directly connected with triggers of chronic stress development. Retirement, frequent loss of the connections with relatives, general health worsening are some of the usual characteristic of elderly age. Loss of the spouse is one of the main stressful factor in elderly age. It has been found out that elderly men survive loneliness much more poor than elderly women. We observed 50 men with sexual dysfunction that was associated with severe feelings of loneliness. The age of the patients was from 55 to 89 years. In 60% of these patients feelings of loneliness didn't lead to development of any pathological features. These feelings were enhanced when a person failed to established relationships with a new partner on the base of his rigid stereotype of sexual behavior. In 40% patients prolong depressive disorder after the loss of the spouse developed with the feeling of loneliness as the main feature of psychological troubles. As a result such patients were unable to established new relationships at all without special psychological training. It has been found out that psychosocial desadaptation develops differently in patients with different pre-morbid peculiarities of personality. Special rehabilitation program for different groups of elderly men has been developed. The main emphasis of sexual dysfunction treatment of elderly men without severe somatical disease has been put on special psychotherapeutic training and education of the patient. Pharmacotherapy is added in treatment of patients with severe somatical diseases taking into account that pharmaceutical means may produce side effects negative for sexual function maintenance. Patients with mental health disturbances received sexological aid along with pharmacotherapy. This program gave positive effect in 60% of the cases.

DISTRIBUTION AND DRINKING PATTERNS IN SEAMEN IN THE EUROPEAN NORTH OF RUSSIA

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Alcohol abuse in transport professions may essentially influence the quality of work and traffic safety. It causes serious consequences and occasionally global disasters.

The aim of the present investigation was to study the distribution and characteristics of the drinking patterns of three professional groups in the European North of Russia – seamen of the mercantile marine and fishing fleet and the employers of the river shipping company. Data were obtained from 1185 persons. Methods of investigation: filling a questionnaire, personal interview, CAGE test, biological markers of alcohol abuse (GGT, biochemical examination of blood serum). Alcohol intakes were reported in units of alcohol per week.

Results revealed that almost 21.1% of examined seamen confirmed alcohol abuse despite it is forbidden according to the rules among this professional group. The level of alcohol abuse in the seamen of the merchant fleet was 19.7%, in river transport workers - 24.6%, in fishing fleet - 24.7%.

The results showed high prevalence of alcohol abuse and unfavourable drinking patterns in the examined professional groups.

The results of the present investigation allowed estimation professional and social risk factors, contributing to the development of alcoholism in seamen.

Developed by authors screening procedure for revealing risk group in seamen, including original professionally adopted screening test, was suggested.

ETHIC DECISIONS ON INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Background: Until now, there is only little knowledge how psychiatrists decide on involuntary treatment in equivocal situations and what decisions depend on.

Method: 3 Case reports of patients with schizophrenia were presented to a sample of n = 520 persons (25.1% psychiatrists, 11.7% psychologists and social workers, 14.6% nurses, 48.6 others). Decisions were asked about involuntary admission to a psychiatric hospital and involuntary treatment.

Results: In case 1 (young man, first episode, delusions, extreme social withdrawal) 71.7% supported admission to hospital, 62.6%