

The sample were 60 males, >1 year heroin addiction, currently receiving stable substitute medication (no opiate use for 2 weeks minimum).

Preliminary results are presented.

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What predicts illicit drug use and drug offending? The Finnish 'from a boy to a man' follow-up study

S. Niemela¹, A. Sourander¹, P. Wu², K. Poikolainen³, H. Elonheimo⁴, H. Helenius⁵, J. Piha¹. ¹Department of Child Psychiatry, University of Turku, Turku, Finland ²Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, USA ³The Finnish Alcohol Research Foundation, Helsinki, Finland ⁴Faculty of Law, University of Turku, Turku, Finland ⁵Department of Biostatistics, University of Turku, Turku, Finland

Background and aims: Involvement with illicit drugs among young people has been explained by a risk-factor matrix. This study aims to compare childhood psychopathology as a predictor between self-reported illicit drug use without registered drug offending and police informed drug offending among males in a prospective birth cohort study.

Methods: A general population sample of 2946 8-year-old Finnish boys was followed up from age 8 to 18. In 1989, childhood psychopathology was assessed using the Rutter scale and Child Depression inventory. Information about self-reported drug use at age 18 or police-registered drug offending during years 16 to 20 years was collected from 79.3% (n=2336) of the subjects.

Results: Childhood psychopathology predicted exclusively police registered drug offending. After adjusting for family background, both severe and moderate conduct problems and ADHD symptoms were associated with subsequent police-registered drug offence. Self-reported illicit drug use was predicted only by non-intact family structure.

Conclusions: Our results demonstrate a clear difference, occurring already in childhood, between young men with self reported illicit drug use and those with police registered drug offending. More severe illicit drug involvement, such as police-registered drug offending, is a continuum of a childhood externalizing problem behaviour, while self-reported occasional illicit drug use does not inevitably associate with psychopathological problems in childhood. Accordingly, the preventive needs and the age period for intervention may be dissimilar for young people with divergent involvement with illicit drugs.

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Verbal working memory and executive dysfunctions in patients with alcohol addiction

K. Nowakowska¹, K. Jabłkowska¹, A. Borkowska^{1,2,3}. ¹Medical Psychology Unit Medical University in Lodz, Lodz, Poland ²Clinical Neuropsychology Unit, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland ³Collegium Medicum, Bydgoszcz, Poland

Cognitive dysfunctions connected with prefrontal cortex activity occurred as an significant factors in clinical picture of alcohol dependence. The aim of this study was to assess verbal working memory and executive dysfunctions in patients with alcohol addiction.

102 patients (77 male and 25 female) aged 21-58 (mean 43±9) years participated in this study. Neuropsychological assessment included: Stroop Color Word Interference Test (RCNb - reading color

names in black, NCWd -naming color of word-different) and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test. In 51 subjects assessment was performed one week after discontinuation of alcohol drinking and in next 51 subjects after at least one-year of abstinence. The control group consisted with 30 healthy persons matched with age, gender and education for experimental group.

Investigated patients showed significant impairments on performance on Stroop Test and WCST compared to healthy persons. Difference were observed between patients with short-term and long-term abstinence on the performance on WCST N-P which is mostly connected with attention and Stroop - NCWd connected with conflict monitoring functions.

The results on Stroop Test correlated with the number on correct completed category (related to efficiency of thinking) on WCST in patients with short-term abstinence and with % of conceptual responses (ability to utilize new information and previous experiences) in healthy controls.

These results may indicate significant role on conflict monitoring functions measured by Stroop Test, connected with posterior cingulate cortex activity in executive functions assessed by WCST in patients with alcohol dependence and healthy controls.

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Addiction and depression diseases in primary families of young women dependents of several psychoactive substances

R. Panoski, G. Lazetic, I. Mladenovic, P. Nastasic, S. Filipovic. Department of Alcoholism, Institute of Mental Health, Belgrade, Serbia

Background and aims: The investigation of the dependence of young women on psychoactive substances has revealed that it originates from dysfunctional families where parents are inclined to alcoholism, depression and other psychiatric diseases. The aim of our investigation is to determine the frequency of these disorders and diseases in parents, as well as in siblings.

Method: The data used in the analysis derives from medical documentation. Twelve families from the rehabilitation group that were treated from January 2003 until June 2006 were investigated.

Results: Seven patients live in an entire primary family. The mothers of patients are 45 - 58 years of age. The mothers of 2 patients were treated from depression with psychotic symptoms, and the mother of 1 patient was treated against depression without psychotic symptoms. Fathers are between 45 and 65 years of age. From 9 alcohol addicted fathers (75%), 2 (16,6%) are still drinking, 3 (25%) are in amateur abstinence, 2 (16,6%) have died from cirrhosis of the liver, 1 (8,3%) disappeared in Sarajevo, and only one as been hospitalized and is abstaining. Only a brother of one female patient is alcohol dependent. One female patient as a brother who was treated for stuttering in childhood, while another brother is being treated for agoraphobia. A younger sister of one female patient has an asocial behavior disorder.

Conclusion: Alcoholism in primary families represents a risk factor for the development of polytoximania and various other disorders and diseases.

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Minorities in a detoxification unit in Greece: I. Socio-demographic characteristics

G. Papazisis, K. Katsigiannopoulos, K. Nikolaou, N. Theodorides, E. Kazantzidou, A. Kefalas, V. Papadopoulou, G. Kesidis,