

EPP1341

Patient's perspective on early treatment retention in take home buprenorphine maintenance treatment- an explorative study from IndiaP. M^{1*}, P. Chand² and P. Murthy²¹Psychiatry, AARUPADAI VEEDU MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, PUDUCHERRY, India and ²Psychiatry, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, BANGALORE, India

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Introduction: Currently, Buprenorphine maintenance therapy (BMT) is an evidence-based treatment in retaining patients who are dependent on opioids. However, factors influencing retention are often measured objectively. Studies on patient's perspectives on take home BMT in developing countries are limited.

Objectives: This study examines the potential factors influencing treatment compliance in the early phase of Buprenorphine maintenance treatment from the patient's perspective

Methods: Participants (n=89) who were initiated on BMT were recruited and followed after six weeks. A semi-structured interview was conducted with 62 patients who remained in treatment and 24 patients who dropped out of the study

Results: Based on the semi qualitative analysis some of the factors which facilitated the patient's retention in treatment were: (1) Effectiveness in blocking withdrawal symptoms (2) effectiveness in reducing their cravings and controlling their opioid use (3) decreased fear of withdrawal and/or missing doses (4) improvement in the quality of life (5) patient-related factors like family support (6) effectiveness of the treatment program. Around nine percent of patients reported family support as the reason for retention, which is not noticed in other studies. Barriers reported by the patients while on medication were: (1) negative effect experienced with medication (2) program related difficulties like distance, unavailability (3) major life event interrupting the treatment (4) patient-related factors like low mood, financial constraints.

Conclusions: Understanding factors associated with barriers to treatment provide insights into preventable factors that contribute to premature drop out from BMT and to improve clinical practice, policy decisions, or future research.

Keywords: opioid; qualitative; addiction; buprenorphine

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The influence of the COVID-19 epidemic on hospitalizations due to alcohol consumptionI.D. Rădulescu^{1*}, M. Terpan² and A. Ciubară³¹Psychiatrist, "Elisabeta Doamna" Psychiatric Hospital, Galati, Romania; ²Corresponding Author, Ph.d Student, "Dunarea de Jos" University, Galati, Romania and ³Md, Ph.d., Hab. Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, University "Dunarea de Jos" Head of Psychiatry Department, Senior Psychiatrist at "Elisabeta Doamna" Hospital, Galati, Romania

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Introduction: Excessive alcohol consumption is an ever-topical issue regardless of social or medical problems (pandemic). In these

conditions (global medical crisis), to the problem of alcohol consumption has been added a new dimension.

Objectives: The main purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospitalizations diagnosed with acute intoxication in the hospital. In Romania, the measures due to the pandemic were instituted starting with March 15 2020.

Methods: The study was performed retrospectively between 01.01.2020 - 30.09.2020 in the Psychiatric Hospital 'Elisabeta Doamna' Galati. ICD-10 criteria were used to establish the diagnosis of the disorder.

Results: In total, 458 cases were admitted during the period mentioned, of which 401 were male (87.56%), female 57 cases (12.44%). The average age of patients was 45.67 years \pm 0.695, with minimum age of 19 years and maximum age of 93 years. The month with the most admissions was January with 80 (17.46%) March by 79 (17.25%). The months with the fewest hospitalizations were April with 27 cases (5.89%) and July with 35 cases (7.64%).

Conclusions: The analysis of the data shows that as measures specific to the epidemic crisis were instituted, the number of hospitalizations decreased significantly by about 3 times.

Keywords: Acute Intoxication; Alcohol; pandemic; Addictive disorders

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Smoking among patients followed at the department of psychiatry.

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Introduction: Smoking and nicotine dependence are particularly common in patients with a psychiatric disorder compared to the general population.

Objectives: To study the prevalence of smoking in patients followed at the department of psychiatry and to assess their dependence on nicotine.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional, descriptive and analytical study. The study focused on patients followed at the department of psychiatry of the regional hospital of Gabes. Sociodemographic and clinical data were assessed. Fagerstrom questionnaire in its validated French version was used to assess the nicotine dependence. Data were analyzed using the software SPSS (20th edition).

Results: 100 patients were included. They were male (60%) and single (50%) and with a mean age of 45.3 years [18-71]. The three most common pathologies were anxiety disorders (31%), schizophrenia (30%) and depression (29%). Among the patients surveyed 48% were smokers. Of which, 93.7% smoked cigarettes, 20.8% snorted chewing tobacco and 12.5% smoked hookah. The average number of pack-years was 11.6, with an average of 22.8 cigarettes per day. The mean duration of regular smoking was 19.1 years. Regarding nicotine dependence, 42% of patients were dependent. Regarding the degree of dependency, 43.7% were heavily dependent, 25% were weakly dependent and 18.8% were moderately dependent. Smoking was significantly associated with the male gender ($p \leq 10^{-3}$), alcoholism ($p = 0.002$) and schizophrenia ($p = 0.006$).

Conclusions: Results of our study show that smoking is frequent in patients followed at the psychiatry department. This aspect should