

was evaluated with clinical interviews as well as with psychometric testing instruments [Symptom Checklist-90-R, Mini Mental State Examination..., projective tests, family support assessment...] Further information were obtained from relatives and from medical records.

The socio-economic level of the patients was found to be low. Family support system was adequate. Regression, paranoid ideation and splitting were very common 'defences' used in our sample. Almost 50% of the patients warranted a psychiatric diagnosis (DSM-IV). Healthy Lifestyle and Compliance reported higher than acceptable level. During of presurgical period candidates were placing magical expectations in the surgical treatment, and also the majority of heart-, lung-, and liver- patients view transplant as cure and had no long range picture. In our country the relevant easy approach to identity of the donor, seems to promote identifications and make more difficult the rehabilitation of the recipient. Significant differences between the types of transplantation were found in the items of psychopathology and understanding of transplantation, in our sample.

The present study approaches for the first time the peculiarities presented in our country regarding the psychological, social and cultural aspects of transplantation. Additionally we describe some preliminary 'normative data' for Greek population in a scaled format that allows comparisons with other transplant programmes.

NR8. Substance and alcohol abuse

Chairmen: H Ghodse, J Marshall

HEALTH PROMOTION IN THE DRUG SUBCULTURE

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A harm reduction approach in an open drug scene is described. The effectiveness of a needle exchange scheme can be increased if it is part of primary medical care. Besides the basic documentation on services provided through various studies, data on the population of an open drug scene were obtained. Viro-epidemiological studies showed a 100–300 times higher prevalence of hepatitis A, B, and C compared with the Swiss population in general. A downward tendency of HIV prevalence could be demonstrated. An overall reduction of needle sharing between 1989 and 1992 was noted. However risk behaviour still exists in some subgroups of intravenous drug users, especially in beginners, where a high prevalence of hepatitis B was found. Methodological considerations of research in open drug scenes are discussed.

VALIDATION OF THE ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS IDENTIFICATION TEST (AUDIT) — ROMANIAN VERSION FOR ICD-10 DIAGNOSES

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The AUDIT has been developed from WHO collaborative project as a screening instrument discriminating harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption and alcohol dependence. This instrument is very useful in preventive medicine, primary health care and psychiatric epidemiology. Previously screening technics for alcoholism were based only on the presence of abnormal physical findings. On the other side, a lot of studies have shown that AUDIT was suitable in different cultures.

The present study aimed to transfer this epidemiologic technique in Romania as a first step developing a real communitar policy against alcohol misuse. The author tried to find if the AUDIT could appropriately "read" the ICD-10 diagnoses and diagnostic criteria in a Romanian clinical and nonclinical sample.

Two groups of volunteers were recruited for this study: the clinical sample encompassed 70 alcoholics from alcoholism treatment units (mean age 43.22 ± 9.91 ; M/F: 57/13; years of education 11.96 ± 3.91) and healthy control group contained 74 subjects from general population (mean age 38.33 ± 11.58 ; M/F: 43/31; years of education: 13.77 ± 2.96).

All subjects were assessed by AUDIT Core (the first 10 questions) and AUDADIS (Alcohol Use Disorders and Associated Disabilities Interview Schedule) developed by Grant & Hasin (1991) from National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse-Rockville USA.

The discriminant validity of the AUDIT was performed determining the ability of this instrument to differentiate alcoholics vs non-alcoholics and various alcoholism diagnostic criteria vs non-criteria. The cutoff point of AUDIT score is the true threshold between the categories above mentioned.

The AUDIT score of 10 is a good cutoff point discriminating between alcoholics vs non-alcoholics diagnosed according to AUDADIS algorithm ($\kappa = 0.81$, sensitivity/specificity: 90.6/90.6) and between non-criteria and harmful ($\kappa = 0.65$, sensit./specif.: 83.5/81.0), tolerance ($\kappa = 0.40$, sensit./specif. 67.0/72.9), neglecting interests ($\kappa = 0.51$, sensit./specif. 63.5/91.5), and withdrawal/relief ($\kappa = 0.71$, sensit./specif. 88.2/83.0) criteria.

This study highlights that AUDIT is a suitable instrument that is able to distinguish between alcoholics and non-alcoholics and furnishes confident thresholds outlining diagnostic criteria. Contrary, AUDIT is not able to differentiate between harmful and dependency, the diagnostic categories from ICD-10.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ALCOHOLISM IN THE EUROPEAN RUSSIAN NORTH

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The main aim of the present study was to investigate the level of alcoholism among some professional groups of Arkhangelsk city (500 000 inhabitants) and the rural population of Arkhangelsk region as well.

The object of the study were: seamen of the Northern Shipping Company, pilots of Arkhangelsk Air Company and workers of different industrial plants, rural population of the remote districts.

The main methods of investigations were testing, interviewing, clinical and psychological analysis, including symptomatological and syndromological evaluation of alcoholic disease.

According to the investigation data the frequency of alcoholism among these groups varies from 10% to 30%. It is specially dangerous for transport specialities where even slight postintoxication disorders can essentially affect the quality of professional ability.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE MOTIVATION OF DRUG ADDICTS ADMITTED TO METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT (UK,LONDON SW — BULGARIA, SOFIA)

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Measures of motivation for drug use change and admission to methadone maintenance were examined among two groups drug