Methods: We performed a systematic comparison of 80 in-patient female and 41 in-patient male heroin users. Heredity, pre-morbid period, beginning of drug use, medical complications and social negative aspects of heroin addiction were assessed.

Results: 76,3% of female heroin users were given their first heroin intake by their male sexual partner, 70% of women reported that their partners were drug addicts. About one-third of women (31%) began using heroin right away systematically daily, 35% began using heroin intravenously. All clinical syndromes and complications of the heroin addiction in women developed in shorter terms. Withdrawal syndrome more often manifested in women with psychopathological disorders. Changes of personality with prevalence of behavioral disorders, hysteria, expressed affective lability appeared to form more rapidly. Hyposexuality and lowering of libido were revealed in 63,8% cases. Suicidal tendencies were found in more than a half (56,2%) of female heroin addicts. 72,5% of the women were unemployed. Women's heroin addiction was accompanied by a lower criminal activity.

Conclusions: Strong gender differences were found among heroin addicts on every stage of disease.

P55.08

Heroin addiction and its social consequences in Russia

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Introduction: the problem of drug addicts now all over the world is extremely acute in conditions of disorganization of a society, growth of criminality and other social anomalies. In Russia for last 10 years the tendency of growth of number of the persons using narcotic substances among which heroin takes the lieder position is marked.

Materials and methods: we observed and treated more then 400 patients with heroin addicts. The age of patients was from 17 till 38 years, the duration of drug addiction was from 1 till 6 years.

Results: in most of patient affective disorders, mostly observed in withdrawal and post-withdrawal periods were marked. In withdrawal period the syndrome of pathologic craving were manifested in the form of dysphoric, melancholic and apathy depression. The was more expressed a dysphoria, the more often patients tried to interrupt treatment and to leave a hospital. At melancholy depression the condition of patients were characterized by emotional instability, fragility, and hypersensitivity. Such persons developed tendency to react inadequately to non-important psychotraumatic events. All this promoted actualization of craving for drugs and quite often resulted in a recurrent. In 38,8% of cases the formation of pathologic craving correlates with antisocial behavior. Dynamic development and increase of affective disorders caused by pathologic craving for a heroin promoted to the commitment of different violations of the law: embezzlement, official and other crimes against person. Correlating analysis confirms that more than in half of the cases (67,8 %) of heroin addicts have law condemnations both under articles not related with drugs but being the result of drug use and as well as under article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, related with the illegal circulation of drugs.

Conclusion: At heroin addiction in all patients are observed disorders of affective sphere, as depressive, depressively-dysphoric, hypochondria, asthenia conditions. Their manifestation and duration depended on a type of premorbid changes in personality and duration of drug use. Social consequences of drug addictions, especially with the early beginning of drug use, are characterized by cessation of studies, acquirement of labor and professional experience by addicts, and professional discipline violations. Most addicts do not study or work, more then 25% of them join criminal structures. In the late stages of the disease, with the expressed changes of the person even criminal structures reject such patients from their sphere.

P55.09

Patient or client, what substance misuse attenders want to be called, who they want to be treated with, where they want to be seen

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150 UK substance misuse patients and 75 Spanish substance misuse patients were surveyed. The paients had drug, nicotine, alcohol problems, they were also a mixture of inpatient and outpatients. They were questioned on their preferences for been called patient or client, which patients they wanted to be treated with, which location they wanted to be seen. The author will present the results.

P55.10

Does cannabinoid exposure sensitize the brain to amphetamine effects?

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Cannabis use may enhance the vulnerability to the addictive effects of other drugs such as amphetamine and is therefore hypothesized as a "gateway-drug".

We studied whether pretreatment with the cannabinoid agonist WIN 55,212–2 alters the response to amphetamine in terms of DA levels in the nucleus accumbens as well as stereotypy and locomotor behaviors. Adolescent rats were treated with WIN 55,212–2 (1.25 mg/kg) once a day for five days. Following a seven-day drug-free period, an injection of amphetamine (0.5 mg/kg) or WIN 55,212–2 (1.25 mg/kg) was given. DA levels were analyzed using in vivo microdialysis. Stereotyped behavior, monitored as number of head-bobbings, were counted manually and locomotor behavior was measured in an activity chamber. Amphetamine caused a marked increase of DA and reduction of DOPAC and HVA levels, with no difference between WIN 55,212–2 pretreated and controls. Stereotyped behavior tended to be higher in animals pretreated with WIN 55,212–2, while locomotor activity tended to be lower in a dose-dependent matter. Overall, pretreatment with the cannabinoid agonist do not affect DA response but causes subtle behavioral alterations in response to amphetamine.

P55.11

Cocaine mediated dopamine transmission and behavior in depressed rats

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There is a strong comorbidity between depression and drug abuse that suggest a shared genetic vulnerability and a similar underlying neurobiology. Therefore we studied the cocaine response on behavior and on mesolimbic dopamine transmission in the

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