

Meanwhile, the number of assisted suicides is higher than the number of suicides. The extent to which the one phenomenon is related to the other is open to debate.

The topic is controversial among the general public and the medical profession. Nevertheless, the Swiss Academy of Medical Science has published guidelines on dealing with dying and death, which also deal with physician-assisted suicide.

Various associations, including the umbrella organisation for suicide prevention in Switzerland, Ipsilon, are in favour of special protection for vulnerable groups. Some of them also recommend that civil law provisions be made for the process of assisted suicide.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

WS0008

The Impact of cognitive remediation combined with mindfulness and social skills training on social functioning and neural plasticity in early psychosis: preliminary results from a randomized clinical multicentric trial in Italy

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the research group on ‘The impact of cognitive remediation on social functioning and neural plasticity in early psychosis: a randomized clinical trial’

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Abstract: Affective and non-affective psychoses are characterized by deficits in neuro and social cognition, which strongly impact the patient’s psychosocial functioning and health and social system. Recent literature suggests that such deficits could benefit from the innovative combination of evidence-based interventions.

This lecture aims to describe an Italian multisite (Verona, Milano, Pavia), longitudinal randomized controlled trial funded by the Italian Ministry of Health investigating the impact of Cognitive Remediation (CR) alone or combined with other approaches (namely, Mindfulness and Social Skills Training (SST)) on clinical, neuropsychological, social and brain-related outcomes in patients with a DSM5 diagnosis of affective or non-affective psychosis.

In our study, patients underwent clinical and neuropsychological evaluation at baseline (T0), end of treatment (T1), and six months post-treatment (T2), which consisted of nearly four months of CR, CR+ Mindfulness, or CR + SST. The cognitive assessment included the Brief Assessment of Cognition for Schizophrenia (BAC-S) or Affective Disorders (BAC-A) and the Executive and Social Cognition Battery (ESCB), specifically designed to identify impairments in social cognition and executive functions in patients’ real life. Participants underwent a 3T multimodal MRI, including structural and functional sequences at T0 and T1. We also recruited healthy controls for comparative brain mapping at T0.

The present lecture will provide an overview of the research project, along with some preliminary findings on the effect of CR alone or combined with other interventions on clinical and social functioning and brain plasticity, with a focus on the degree of durability and generalization of CR effects to patients’ real life. The study’s

outcomes have the potential to inform clinical and rehabilitative settings and tailor combined therapeutic interventions.

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WS0009

Utility of risky cannabis use concept and the role of standard units for achieving an operational definition

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Abstract: Over the past decade (2010-2019), the number of people admitting to using cannabis in the European Union (including the United Kingdom, Norway, and Turkey) increased by 27%, from 3.1% to 3.9%. Notably, Portugal, Spain, and Luxembourg topped the list with the highest percentages of daily cannabis users among those who had consumed the substance in the last month.

With the relaxation of recreational cannabis laws in various European countries, such as Germany, Malta, and Luxembourg, there is a growing need for a public health-oriented and preventative approach. Drawing parallels with alcohol-related strategies, this session aims to explore this evolving landscape from a clinical perspective.

The focus will be on the World Health Organization’s definition of risky substance use, aiming to make it practical and applicable. Two existing proposals from Canada and Spain will be reviewed, with an emphasis on the role of standardized cannabis units in defining risk and the quest for consensus in this regard.

Additionally, the session will examine the similarities between alcohol and cannabis consumption, looking at the effectiveness of the Standard Drink Unit in early intervention and prevention of alcohol-related problems. Insights from the alcohol domain will be discussed, offering valuable lessons for preventing cannabis-related harm.

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WS0010

Moving forwards with the Standard THC Unit: what are the next steps?

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Abstract: Current metrics of cannabis use are inconsistent. This issue prevents the integration of the literature to date and to robustly measure the health risks and benefits associated with