

## METHYLPHENIDATE ABUSE AMONG ICELANDIC I.V. SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

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**Background:** Prescription and sale of Methylphenidate (MPD) has increased sharply in Iceland in recent years as it has done worldwide. MPD is known to have abuse potential but significant i.v. use of prescription stimulants has not been reported in the literature. Clinical experience however has indicated that such i.v. use has now become very prevalent in Iceland.

**Aim:** To investigate the prevalence, pattern and symptoms of i.v. MPD abuse in Iceland.

**Method:** The study is cross-sectional in design. The study tool is a semi-structured interview designed especially for the purpose of this study. All substance abusers admitted to drug treatment in Iceland who have used substances i.v. in the past 30 days, are offered to participate in the study. The aim is to include 150 individuals.

**Result:** The study is in its preliminary stage. First results show that MPD is now the most commonly abused i.v. drug in Iceland, 85% of the sample admitted to using MPD i.v. in the past 30 days. Methylphenidate is preferred by i.v. substance abusers over illegal stimulants.

**Conclusion:** Our preliminary data shows that MPD abuse is a very prevalent problem in Iceland. It is the most commonly abused i.v. drug in Iceland at present. It is important to objectively verify and characterize the pattern of MPD abuse as to evaluate the complications associated with i.v. use of MPD. Increased knowledge of this problem is necessary both for Iceland as well as other countries.