

Today the institution of custody gets more of a dynamic meaning in social psychiatry. It means that it is not always a permanent measure to protect the rights and interests of patients, but should rather be considered a temporary measure which can be of help to achieve faster, more efficient and complete rehabilitation and re-socialization.

All legal proceedings of right and/or work abilities deprivation carried out by the authorized court in Belgrade during 1995. and 1996. were examined in order to get a better understanding how custody is provided and conveyed. Centers for social work as legal authorities for custody in court practice in FRJ, started this procedure in 52.47%, the authorized court in 19.18% and psychiatric hospitals in 28.75%. By these results the most common reasons for custody were: 1) Protection of the patient in 85.42%; 2) Protection of the family from the patient in 6.08%; 3) Protection of children from the patient in 8.25% and 4) Protection of the society from the patient in 3.25%. More than 50% of cases belongs to the group of endogenous psychoses, 31.42% to alcoholism, and less than one fifth to other different psychiatric diagnoses and clinical entities.

From the contemporary clinical and social psychiatry point of view, the institution of custody must be understood as a temporary measure, which can, in some phases and periods of the illness, be of help to health, social and/or legal status of a patient. Of course, mental retardation and progressed cases of sclerotic-senile psychiatric disorders must be here excluded. Custody should be properly used not only to protect interests of patients when their property and civil rights are concerned, but also in their rehabilitation process as a whole. Many times a so-called successive transition of partial work ability deprivation is used.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC CONSEQUENCES OF COMPULSORY NEUROLEPTIC TREATMENT OF NON-PSYCHOTIC INDIVIDUALS

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Negative attitude towards medicine and medicaments, disappointment (projection, generalization), disorders (neurotic, personality) fixation, self-esteem, interpersonal and marital problems and global functioning as result of violence, biological manifestation of stress and stigmatization, are compared in 3 groups of individuals, treated by neuroleptics:

1. Hospitalized under civil proceedings, when various degrees of pressure took place (Method: interview in nonclinic (are afraid of until now) setting after announcement in Kaunas newspaper Group Exploring Misusings in Psychiatry had been organized, screening upon ICD-9 diagnostic criteria (1992): from 61 persons who came to tell about their horrible experience 19 were found as being schizophrenics;
2. Dissidents, convicted to be treated by Soviet Lithuania Supreme Court at KGB intention (Method: Interview "Victims of Psychiatric Abuse - after Their Point of View");
3. Patients with neurotic disorders, treated in psychiatric departments by tranquilizers, antidepressants and neuroleptics with Akathisia symptoms (Method; clinical observation and interview).

Results suggest, that the most dangerous action of compulsory neuroleptic treatment in the absence of psychosis to the individual took place, when he was young, had no support in the family, or had psychological problems.

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ACUTE CHANGES OF REGIONAL CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW FOLLOWING PLACEBO CONTROLLED INTRAVENOUS INJECTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE OR DIAZEPAM*

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Previous studies using magnetic resonance imaging sensitized to changes in cerebral blood oxygenation (fMRI) investigated focal brain activation following functional challenge and global vasomotor responses to the application of vasoactive substances. The following study extends this approach to neuroactive substances and, in addition, to the detection of a related placebo effect.

Six healthy males (mean age 27 y) underwent MRI at 2 Tesla (Siemens Magnetom) using the standard imaging headcoil and rf-spoiled FLASH MRI. Recordings were obtained in four sessions per subject and performed in a transverse section angulated to include parts of cortical and subcortical gray and white matter. In each session, a 1 min. intravenous injection of either 10 mg diazepam, 15 mg methamphetamine, or saline was performed after half of the dynamic imaging series. Subjects were not aware of the possibility that placebo might be applied, however knew whether they got a stimulating or sedating substance. MRI signal intensity time courses were determined in regions of interest covering the cerebral tissue of the section. Irrespective of the substance applied, an unspecific signal decrease appeared which preceded the actual injection and may reflect anticipation. Drug specific signal changes were observed in that signal time courses diverged after injection of verum, falling and rising in response to diazepam and methamphetamine, respectively. Overall, time courses under drug influence displayed enhanced intersubject variability compared to baseline.

These findings indicate that studies of psychotropic drug action will have to consider both an immanent placebo effect and the temporal evolution of the drug response studied.

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MEMORY DYSFUNCTION AND NEURO-IMAGING IN KORSAKOFF AND ALCOHOLISM

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Memory dysfunction in man can be caused by different disorders and may be related to several neuronal substrates. Initially, in Alzheimer's dementia structures in the median temporal lobe are involved especially. The Korsakoff syndrome, caused by thiamine deficiency, can be described as a diencephalic amnesia, in that especially thalamic and basal forebrain structures are affected. The relative contribution of the direct neurotoxic effect of chronic alcohol abuse per se on the brain and on neuropsychological deficits can be evaluated by comparing Korsakoff patients and chronic alcoholics without this syndrome. There is a certain paucity in studies comparing neuropsychological functions deficits in alcoholics and Korsakoff patients with abnormalities in specific memory-related brain structures with MRI.

In the present study, 15 Korsakoff patients were compared with 15 alcoholics, matched for age, sex and intelligence and to a