

of impairments of cardiovascular and excretory systems does not reveal similar consistence: renal impairments are clinically diagnosed in 7.2% of cases, disorders of cardiovascular system in clinical picture of opioid addiction are found in not more than 10% of patients. As a rule, possibilities of early and quick development of dystrophic (fatty) and sclerotic processes in cardiac muscle and coronary vessels as well as epithelium of canals of kidneys that during a morphological diagnosis are revealed in 41.4% and 53.4% of cases, respectively, are not taken into account. Sclerotic alterations and fatty dystrophy of organs as well as another somatic pathology revealed lifetime and during autopsy testify to early disturbances of metabolic processes in chronic opioid intoxication characterized by progression, formed for short time (3.6 years) and at young age (22.5 ± 3.1 years).

P0036

Life events, social support and alcohol relapse risk

G. Martinotti, M. Di Nicola, A. Frustaci, C. De Santis, A. Rondoni, G. Pozzi, L. Janiri. *Catholic University of Rome, Department of Psychiatry, Rome, Italy*

Introduction: There is an increasing focus on the impact of psychosocial factors and stressors on the course of Alcohol Use Disorders. Exposure to traumatic events is common among individuals with substance use disorders. PTSD symptoms were associated with greater risk of relapse in intrapersonal and negative physiological contexts. Causative chains are multifactorial and complex, and genetic factors can influence life event exposure. The purpose of this study is to describe the relationships stressful life events and alcohol relapse in a clinical sample of Alcohol Dependent Subjects.

Methods: Seventy detoxified alcoholics meeting clinical criteria for Alcohol Dependence were consecutively recruited, after a short detoxification period, and then regularly followed for a period of one year. In the occurrence of alcohol relapse, patients were evaluated by the Paykel Interview for Recent Life Events. All patients were assessed by the Global Assessment of Functioning, the Quality of Life Index, and the Social Adaptation Self-evaluation Scale.

Results: Forty-six subjects were still in treatment at the end of the study period. Stressful life events, did not determine an increased relapse rate and were not associated with alcohol relapse.

Discussion: This study suggests that the role of psychosocial risk factors should be reconsidered toward a better understand of the factors implicated in alcohol relapse. Other aspects, such as the psychological functioning, the family environment, the peer relationships, and biological and genetic characteristics are further aspect to investigate.

P0037

Efficacy and safety of Pregabalin in alcohol dependent subjects: A pilot study

G. Martinotti, M. Di Nicola, D. Tedeschi, L. Janiri. *Institute of Psychiatry, Catholic University of Rome, Rome, Italy*

Introduction: Pregabalin is a new anxiolytic that acts as a presynaptic inhibitor of the release of excessive levels of excitatory neurotransmitters. To the best of our knowledge pregabalin has not been investigated in alcohol dependence, a disorder frequently characterized by high levels of anxiety, panic attacks, and unsteadiness.

Methods: Twenty detoxified alcohol dependent subjects meeting clinical criteria for Alcohol Dependence were consecutively recruited, after a short detoxification period, and then orally treated

with flexible doses of pregabalin (mean dosage = 260.5 mg/day) for 6 monthss. The level of craving for alcohol was evaluated through a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and the Obsessive-Compulsive Drinking Scale (OCDS). Psychiatric symptomatology was evaluated through the Symptom Check List 90 Revised (SCL-90 R). Effectiveness measures included the Clinical Global Impressions scale (CGI) and the Quality of Life Index (QOL).

Results: eleven patients (55%) maintained an alcohol free condition for all the study period. Subjects experienced a reduction of craving in both OCDS ($F=13.2$; $p<.001$) and VAS ($F=11.2$; $p<.001$), a decrease of the SCL-90 subscore of ostility-aggression ($F=8.1$; $p<.05$). At the end of the study improvements were evidenced on both CGI ($p<.001$) and QOL ($p<.001$).

Discussion: the data of this pilot clinical study, suggest a possible role for this drug in the treatment of individuals with alcohol problems. If it could be demonstrated in controlled randomised trials that pregabalin is efficacious in decreasing alcohol use, lessening craving, and attenuating psychopathological symptom severity, we will have gained a powerful agent for the treatment of alcohol dependent subjects.

P0038

Adolescence and behavioural addictions: Results from an Italian sample

G. Martinotti¹, C. Vilella¹, M. Cassano², M. Di Nicola¹, M.G. Castrogiovanni⁴, M. Pomponi¹, V. Catalano¹, N. Corvasce², E. Righino¹, F. Petruccielli³, G.L. Conte¹, L. Janiri¹. ¹Catholic University of Rome, Department of Psychiatry, Rome, Italy ²AUSL BAT, Department of Addictive Behaviours, Barletta, Italy ³University of Cassino, Department of Human and Social Sciences, Cassino, Italy ⁴I.S.P., Istituto Per Lo Studio Delle Psicoterapie, Rome, Italy

Introduction: Adolescence seems to be a critical period of addiction vulnerability, based on both neurobiological, social, and familiar factors. The earlier onset of behavioural/substance dependence seems to predict greater addiction severity, morbidity, and multiple addictive disorders. The aim of this study was to assess the presence of multiple addictions in an Italian adolescent high-school population.

Methods: Data were collected from a sample of 2907 high school students recruited in the area of Barletta (Puglia) and Latina (Lazio). The sample had an average age of 16.69 ± 1.89 years. Through different multi-item scales we evaluated different behavioural addictions: Pathological Gambling, Internet Addiction, Compulsive Buying, Sexual Addiction, Relationship Addiction, Mobile Phone Addiction, Exercise Addiction, Work Addiction.

Results: the presence of pathological gambling was found in 4.4%, compulsive buying in 8.3%, internet addiction in 1.1%, work addiction in 7.2%, exercise addiction in 6.7% of the subjects. Males showed higher scores ($p<.001$) for pathological gambling, internet and exercise addiction, whereas females showed an higher score ($p<.001$) for mobile phone addiction. A positive correlation ($p<.001$) was found between all the scale employed, apart from the Compulsive Buying Scale, which was negatively correlated ($p<.001$) with the other scales.

Discussion: The high number of subjects reporting a behavioural dependence is an unexpected data, which creates concern, and need an adequate analysis. It should be valued if these typologies of “addiction without the substance” are a temporary phenomenon occurring in adolescents or if they are a stable trait, and a consequent risk factor for a substance misuse.