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The need for a specific therapeutic-rehabilitative group for cocaine addicted patients rises up both from the progressive increase of cocaine use in the general population and from peculiar personality traits and associated psychopathology of these clients. Moreover, it is difficult to maintain a compliance to therapy, because there are no specific anticraving or antidote drugs for cocaine addiction.

Therefore our equipe developed a short integrated treatment (ten weeks), of “group concelling” and “psychodynamic group therapy” in association. The group is open and composed by a maximum of eight participants.

The novelties of this model are: (1) hospital setting, (2) a short duration and (3) synergy between two different approaches: Minnesota 12 steps model (one sessions weekly, held by a councillor on addiction), and a psychodynamic group therapy (one session weekly).

Main success is the retention of patients in therapy for a long time. In twenty months (March 2005- October 2006), forty cocaine-addicted patients started this program: only 30% of them dropped out, while 70% of patients completed the treatment. 64% of the latter where completely abstinent, while 36% relapsed during the therapy. All of them are still continuing some therapy at the moment: 46% individual psychotherapy, 25% individual psychotherapy and pharmacological therapy, 14% narcotics anonymous attendance, 11% N.A. groups and pharmacological therapy, 4% is in a T. C.

## P292

Changes of the populations of patients in an addictive disorders service in Rome: 2001-2006

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In the last six years an increasing number of patients seeking care for cocaine dependence entered the Day Hospital program at Catholic University medical school, with a milder variation in the number of opioid dependent patients. The number of cocaine dependent patients doubled year by year from 15 pts in 2003, through 32 in 2004, to 60 in 2005; preliminary data from 2006 seem to follow this trend. A minority of patients are addicted to other drugs. This outgrowth in cocaine addicted patients could be related both to a wider diffusion of cocaine related problems in the general population in Italy<sup>1</sup> and to the institution of a specific program for cocaine related disorders in our service. The mean age of opioid dependent patients remained quite stable through years, with a slight increase from 32,1 years, with a standard deviation of 6,9 in 2001 to 33,5 with a SD of 7,0 in 2005. In the same years we observed a slight decrease in the mean age of cocaine patients, from 36,2 years with a SD of 11,2 in 2001 to 32,8 with a SD of 6,8 in 2005. Both substances are most commonly abused by men: 83,1% of cocaine dependent and 79,2% of opioid dependent patients are male, while only 16,1% of cocaine and 20,1% of opioid dependent patients are female.

## P293

Description of a population of pathological gamblers acceding a group therapy program in rome

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Since November 2005 our institute has been developing a group therapy program for pathological gamblers, alternating a counselling/rehabilitation and a group psychotherapy session each week. This program was presented to the press; all of our patients knew about it from the newspapers, except for one patient, who was addressed to our service by another specialist.

Up to November 2006 fifteen patients joined the program: they are all male, their mean age is 46,8 years old, with a standard deviation of 11,7; eight of them (53,3%) are married, two are divorced (13,3%), one is separated from his wife (6,7%), one has a stable relationship (6,7%), while three of them are free (20%). Their education is generally low: one of them (6,7%) completed only primary schools, eight of them have a lower intermediate education (53,3%), five completed upper intermediate schools (33,3%), only one got a degree (6,7%). Some patients have an associated psychopathology: four (26,7%) have a depressive disorder, three (20%) have a bipolar disorder II, three (20%) have a history of cocaine abuse, one (6,7%) has a mild cognitive impairment related to a Parkinson's Disease. Seven patients (46,7%) have gambling debts or legal problems related to gambling. The most popular games among patients were betting, lotto, slot machine, videopoker and in some cases card game.

## P294

Alcohol consumption situation among drivers and citizens delivered in a republican narcological clinic on survey for infringement of the legislation in dynamics

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**Introduction:** For the last three years (2004-2006) the situation in the Chechen republic began to vary towards normalization. Reduction of uneasiness and affective frustration occurred for the last few years gradually

**Material and methods of research:** The total number of surveyed has made 5888 persons. The analysis of all acts on years, on age (up to 20 years, up to 30 years, up to 40 years, up to 50 years) was carried out. Drivers, in their turn have been divided in two groups: those who made transport incidents and those who didn't.

**Results and their discussion:** The number of delivered on toxicological survey for intoxication tends to growth occurs on a background of sharp growth of delivered drivers suffered in a road accidents (162,322,381-accordingly).

To estimate the general tendency in the attitude relation alcohol consumption of the population materials of survey of the persons who were not driving motor transport were analyzed by us as well, but delivered fore infringement of the administrative legislation by law enforcement bodies. In 2004 was 72 persons was delivered. In 2005-487, in 2006 860 persons have already delivered. The share of drunk from the general number of delivered changes within the limits of 68,79,4 and 67,3 percent. Thus there is a tendency to growth of alcohol consumption in a younger age under 30 years.

In the Chechen republic among the drivers delivered to survey the age over 40 years prevails. Among delivered for infringement of a social order that of under 30 years

## P295

Safe consumption rooms – A project for the future?

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The safe consumption rooms (DCRs) are integrated in programs to reduce drug-related harms. These places have developed since the mid-1980s, and now-a-days they exist in a lot of European countries, and also in Canada and Australia. The authors describe historic data as well as the main purposes, physical and human conditions, and typical users of DCRs, and make a review about studies concerning results and evaluation of their impact.

Arguments supporting and rejecting DCRs are presented and discussed. The particular case of Portugal is also mentioned, referring the law and the real actual situation. The authors support the idea that, while the benefits should not be exaggerated, these facilities can make a positive contribution to reducing drug-related harms in Portugal, in a future not so distant.

## P296

New drugs in the treatment of tobacco addiction

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**Background and aims:** Both psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy approaches are needed to a successful treatment of tobacco addiction. Until now, bupropion and nicotine substitutes were the more important pharmacological agents, but things are becoming to change.

**Methods:** The authors make a review about the new drugs available.

**Results:** Varenicline tartrate has been approved by FDA in May of 2006, and preliminary studies of efficacy reveal percentages of tobacco cessation even higher than bupropion. Rimonabant is another new drug with potential utility in tobacco addiction. It is the first selective blocker of cannabinoid receptors CB1. Selegiline and Topiramate can be useful in cases of comorbidity or resistance to other drugs, but they need more studies to establish their utility in treatment of tobacco addiction. Antinicotinic vaccines are also been discussed, because they could reduce the cerebral distribution of nicotine, and then act in the positive reinforcement of tobacco addiction.

**Conclusions:** Varenicline and rimonabant are two promising drugs in pharmacological treatment of tobacco addiction

## P297

Quantitative EEG after activation methods in chronic patients with alcohol dependence

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**Background and aims:** In our study, the magnitude of EEG power spectra of delta, theta, alpha and beta power was examined to address the relationship between EEG spectral changes after activation methods and alcohol dependence. Electroencephalography has shown that the brain activity of alcoholics and nonalcoholics differs in some characteristic ways. These differences are consistent with an imbalance between excitation and inhibition processes in the brains of alcoholics.

**Methods:** We examined eyes-closed resting EEG and EEG after activation procedures (eyes-open, hyperventilation). A group of 54 male chronic alcoholics were selected according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. We compared this group with 54 age- and gender-matched control subjects from the group of healthy volunteers. All subjects in both groups were Caucasians.

**Results:** Our results in power spectra of activated EEG (after eyes-open period, hyperventilation) showed statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods between alcohol dependent patients and healthy volunteers. Our data manifested significant contrast in modulation of alpha activity after EEG activation using eyes-open test.

**Conclusions:** In previous studies researchers compared eyes-closed resting EEG spectra in alcohol dependent study participants and age- and gender-matched control subjects. The present study reported statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods in both groups. Hence, the EEG spectra after activation methods in children of alcoholic, especially before alcohol exposure, need to be examined to consider these differences in reactivity to activation methods as an endophenotype marker of chronic alcoholism.

## P298

Designing and evaluation of reliability and validity of a visual cue – induced craving assessment task for intravenous heroin users

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**Introduction:** we evaluate the effects of a diverse set of visual cues on subjective craving for intravenous heroin users (IHUs) then; we designed and assessed reliability and validity of a Visual Cue – Induced Craving Assessment Task (VCICT) for induction of subjective craving among IHUs.

**Methods:** first, five sessions were held with IHUs groups to provide a list of visual signs that might evoke heroin craving. According to this list, needed photographs provided from real situations. Intravenous Heroin Users were asked to score the severity of their craving induced by each photo on a self report. Second, for designing of VCICT, we used ten most provocative cues. We used the Opiate Withdrawal Symptoms Checklist (OWSC) before and after exposure to cues, Barret Impulsivity Scale (BIS) and the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). 30 male IHUs entered this study before treatment.

**Results:** packed and open powder of heroin, injecting syringe and act of injection had the largest effect on induction of craving. VCICT score was significantly correlated with drug component of ASI and the post exposure score in OWSC that shows the validity of task. Test–retest of cue exposure with one day interval showed higher level of reliability (82%). Responder group to VCICT (17 out of 30) showed higher level of cognitive impulsivity.