

and their psychological problems, one main study with mainstream students (N = 1071) and two subsidiary studies with students from schools for children with "Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty" (EBD schools) (N = 139) and a small group of conduct disorder boys (N = 25) referred to a clinic were carried out.

Mainstream students were asked to fill in inventories on self-esteem (Coopersmith, 1967; Rosenberg, 1965), depression scale (Birlerson, 1981), Friendship, and demographic information. Teachers were also asked to fill in a psychological problems scale (Rutter B, 1967) and an Information questionnaire concerning academic performance, and whether or not the student had any referral to agencies because of his/her psychological problems at school.

Results of mainstream school adolescents showed that positive parent-child relationship (Home self-esteem) and school performance (School self-esteem) were positively associated with high total self-esteem and negatively with psychological problems. Students' academic performance also associated positively with self-esteem and negatively with psychological problems.

In general, self-esteem was negatively associated with behavioural and emotional problems. However, a comparison between a group with conduct problems identified by both their teachers and classmates and another group without any psychological problems did not show significant differences on self-esteem. A comparison between a group with behavioural problems and another group who had both conduct problems and depression, showed self-esteem to be significantly lower in latter group.

Finally, in comparisons of data from three sample sources, mainstream students displayed much better self-esteem and fewer psychological problems than students from EBD schools, while, similar results were not found for comparisons between mainstream students and the clinical sample.

SOMATIZATION AND SIDE EFFECTS OF TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SEROTONINE REUPTAKE INHIBITORS — A NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOMETRICAL INVESTIGATION

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During the pharmacotherapy with antidepressants, somatic symptoms of the depression itself and side effects of the thymoleptic drugs — especially dysregulations of the autonomous system — are often overlapping, which might hinder the patient's compliance. In this study we evaluated the subjective complaints by appropriate standardized psychometric instruments (BDI, STESS, B-L). Additionally we carried out several neurophysiological investigations (NCV, F-wave, sympathetic skin response = SSR) and the Schellong test, as objective measurements.

According to this method, we investigated 6 healthy controls and 12 patients, undergoing treatment with tricyclic antidepressants (n = 6) or serotonin reuptake inhibitors (n = 6). Preliminary results showed not only more adverse effects and impairment in the psychometrically evaluation, but also neurophysiological changes in the tricyclically treated group. Under similarity of the other neurophysiologic parameters (F-Wave, NCV) a tendency of delayed latencies and decreased amplitudes and in 2 cases "absent responses" of SSR were observable in the tricyclically treated group.

Therefore we propose a combination of psychopathological, clinical and neurophysiological parameters to be taken into consideration in the decision making of antidepressant pharmacotherapy.

CHANGES IN BRAIN PERFUSION DURING OPIOID DEPENDENCE: SPECT IMAGING WITH Tc-99m-HMPAO

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The aim of this study was to describe abnormalities in brain perfusion in pure opioid dependent patients (DSM-IV 304.00). Twenty-one opioid dependent patients were included and Tc-99m-hexamethyl-propyleneoxime (Tc-99m-HMPAO) brain single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) was performed to evaluate regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF). Cerebral computed tomography (CCT) was administered to seventeen patients in order to assess the possible effects of substance abuse on brain morphology. Drug history was evaluated with Europe-Addiction Severity Index (ASI). Present drug consumption was screened by urine samples with EMIT. Thirteen patients were undergoing a detoxification treatment and eight patients a methadone maintenance program. Just before imaging all subjects were examined in order to detect withdrawal symptoms with Wang's withdrawal scale. No subject showed withdrawal symptoms. Normalized rCBF-values in corresponding regions of interest (RIO) in both hemispheres were compared. Significantly higher left sided rCBF-values were found in the pre- and postcentral gyre (p = 0.001), the mesiotemporal (p = 0.003), superior temporal (p = 0.003) and inferior parietal cortex (p = 0.007). This study shows changes in brain perfusion during opiate dependence.

HIV — HIGH RISK BEHAVIOUR IDENTIFICATION IN A PRISON POPULATION OF INDIA: A PILOT SURVEY

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Introduction: According to W.H.O. predictions, India will be the country with the largest number of HIV positive cases by 2010. The prison population is highly vulnerable to HIV transmission, in view of the high prevalence of injecting drug use (Harding, 1990; J Strang, 1993) and higher prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (McMillan, 1988) than the general population. The present study is the first of its kind in India, looking at the prevalence of HIV high risk behaviour and knowledge/attitude towards AIDS in a prison population.

Method: 110 randomly selected remand prisoners were interviewed. 50% of prisoners had been remanded for drug-related and the other 50% for non-drug related offences. A structured questionnaire, in six parts, viz., demography, history of tattooing, drug abuse, blood transfusions, a sexual behaviour profile and knowledge/attitude towards AIDS was administered to the prisoners by a specially trained team of investigators. A similar study was done on 1006 subjects in prisons in England and Wales, using the same questionnaire.

Results: The sample population was all male with mean age of 30.7 years. 10.9% of the inmates were tattooed, 50% of this group had shared tattooing equipment. 36.5% of the population were regular drug abusers before entering prison, with the largest number on Heroin (29.1%), alcohol next (25.4%) and Cannabis (6.4%). 11.8% of the population had a history of injecting drugs. 2.7% had ever shared needles. 44.4% of the inmates had multiple sexual partners, with 43.6% having safe sex and 2.7% having homosexual practices. 10% of the population had heard about HIV testing with 9.1% perceiving themselves at risk of catching HIV, and 47.3% having no knowledge about AIDS.