Türk Psikiyatri Dergisi

World Psychiatric Association
International Congress 2006

"Psychiatry: Uniqueness and Universality"

July 12-16, 2006 Istanbul, Turkey

ABSTRACTS

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Yaz / Summer 2006 • Sayı / Number 2 • Ek Sayı / Supplement 1
Participants: 4945 adolescents and their mothers who participated at the 14-year follow-up. Young adults' mental health and history of cannabis and use of other illicit drugs were assessed at 21 years. Data on adolescents' anxiety/depression, cigarette smoking, and alcohol consumption, as well as maternal mental health and socio-economic status were collected at 14-year follow-up.

Results: Symptoms of anxiety/depression in early adolescence did not predict later use of cannabis. After excluding anxious/depressed youth at 14 years and controlling for confounding factors, those who commenced using cannabis before age 15 years and used it frequently were more likely to report symptoms of anxiety/depression with odds ratio (OR = 3.4, 95% CI: 1.9-6.1). The OR for the late-onset-frequent-use group was 2.2 (95% CI = 1.3-3.6). This association was of similar magnitude for those who had only used cannabis, and those who reported having used cannabis and other illicit drugs.

Conclusion: The relationship between use of cannabis and anxiety/depression is independent of individual and family backgrounds. Frequent cannabis use appears to lead to symptoms of Anxiety/Depression independent of whether the person is using other illicit drugs in addition to cannabis.

OP.64
Early Age Onset of Substance Abuse at a Child and Adolescent Clinic in Jamaica

Winston De La Haye
The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Objective: To describe the demographic characteristics, age of onset, and pattern of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug misuse in clients presenting to an outpatient clinic in Kingston, Jamaica.

Method: Data from clients attending the Drug-Free Outpatient Clinic at the University Hospital of the West Indies between January 2004 and January 2005 were aggregated using retrospective chart extractions. Data analysis was performed with SSPS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), Version 13.0.

Results: A total of 103 clients received treatment; 96 (93.2%) males and 7 (6.8%) females. The mean age was 15.4 ± 1.74 years (range: 10-18 years). Most clients were from Kingston and St. Andrew (n = 73: 68.8%), the majority living with only one parent (n = 58: 54.7%), (P < 0.001). Schools were the main sources of referral (n = 51: 48.1%), followed by mothers (n = 30: 28.3%), (P < 0.001). The mean age of onset was 13 ± 1.8 years (range: 7-16 years), (P < 0.001). Most clients were introduced to substance use by a friend (n = 71: 67%), (P < 0.001). Cannabis was the drug of onset in 77 (74.8%) clients, with all (103, 100%) diagnosed with cannabis abuse. The majority abused only cannabis (n = 55: 51.9%), followed by a combination of cannabis and alcohol (n = 21: 19.8%), and cannabis and nicotine (n = 12: 11.3%), (P < 0.001). There was no reported intravenous drug use.

Conclusion: There was an early age of onset in this cohort of substance abusers. Cannabis was the main drug of onset and substance of abuse in this cohort.

OP.65
Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders in Opium Dependents

Mohammad Nazer, Ezzatallah Khaleghi
Medical University of Rafsanjan, Iran

Objective: The present study explored the relationship between the severity of psychiatric disorders and degree of opium dependence as negative prognosis in the treatment of drug addicts.

Method: We used a descriptive, cross-sectional study design. The 240 subjects (232 men and 8 women) were randomly selected from among opium addicts seeking treatment. The instruments used were the MMPI test and an individual psychiatric interview. The data were analyzed with Chi Square, analysis of variance, and Tukey tests.

Results: The most common method of using opium was the poker-stone method. The average drug-taking period was 5.96 years, the average starting age was 24 years, and the average number of abstinence attempts was 1. One or more psychiatric disorders were observed in 30.4% of the subjects; the most common being anti-social personality (25%), depression (20.5%), and anxiety (18.3%). The study demonstrated that psychiatric disorders intensified as opium dependence increases; 50.5% of those who smoked opium, 39.2% of those who used a poker and stone, and 37% of those who snorted the drug, and 92.3% of heroin addicts were found to be suffering from psychiatric disorders.

Conclusions: The presence of mental disorders in addicts is significant. To treat them, the severity of addiction and psychiatric disorders should both be taken into consideration. Degree of addiction serves both as a negative prognosis in unsuccessful abstinence attempts and as a cause for higher rates of comorbidity of psychiatric disorders.

OP.66
Substance Use among Secondary School Students in Izmir, Turkey

Yıldız Akvardar1, Yeşilcem Demiral2, Arzu Kitiş3, Halis Ulaş1, Hakan Tokçu1, Şule Topkaya2, Gülsen Özen1, Kemal Dumlulu1, Gül Ergör2
1Dokuz Eylül University Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, Izmir, Turkey
2Dokuz Eylül University Medical School, Department of Public Health, Izmir, Turkey
3Kars State Hospital, Kars, Turkey

This study as part of National Assessment on Drug Abuse 2003, Turkey (UNODC) identifies the patterns of drug use in a sample of Turkish secondary school students. The schools were chosen randomly. Total sample was 14 schools with 958 students and 518 of them were born in 1987, and included in the analysis. ESPAD questionnaire was used. The most common substances used were alcohol (56.8%) and cigarettes (48.5%). Lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug use was 4.3% and 1.6% had used any illicit substance more than 10 times. Lifetime prevalence of cannabis use 4.2%, inhalant use was 3.6%, ecstasy 0.9%. Boys were more likely to use substances and to have an earlier age of onset of drug use than girls. Cigarette was the first used substance. The most available drugs were the most common drugs used. The first illicit drug used was cannabis, friends and curiosity seems to be important on the first drug use occasion. Most of the students stated something to do as a leisure time activity. Less than half of them were going out (disco, party, etc) in the evenings. Missing school days was low, most of the students was successful, and was mostly from intact families, they were satisfied with the relations to their parents and friends. The parents knew where they spend Saturday evenings. These characteristics may be classified as protective factors against using drugs and they may have a role in the lower prevalence of substance use compare to the Western countries.