OP60
Quality of Life in Alcoholism: An Essential Outcome Measure

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For decades, outcome measurement in alcoholism was reduced to alcohol consumption. Alcohol use disorders are characterized by patterns of consumption and their social, physical or psychological components. Quality of life (QoL) addresses at least three of those dimensions and thus can be considered as an essential area in assessing alcoholics and in evaluating treatment outcome. Literature on the topic remains poor with only 30 papers since 1987 (compared to more than 1000 papers about QoL addressing other chronic diseases). QoL alteration in alcoholism has some specificities. It is markedly reduced compared to a normative healthy population and poorer for women. Profiles present the most important deficits in mental dimensions and social functioning and only a slight decrease in physical components. Psychiatric comorbidities (depression), disturbed sleep, social and other alcohol-related problems are major determinants of QoL. Generic scales have been used to describe QoL in alcoholism: SF-36, Nottingham Health Profile (NHP) and Euro Quality of life (EQ-5 D). Nevertheless, none is properly applied to alcoholism (e.g. NHP social isolation and SF-36 social functioning do not correlate). Besides, specific conditions or severity in alcoholism have been evaluated with various scales or questionnaires: Rotterdam Symptom Checklist (RSC), Life Situation Survey (LSS), Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), Alcohol-Related Problems Questionnaire (ARQ) or Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ). All this data could be used to define heterogeneous but complementary components of QoL in alcoholism. QoL is a major outcome measure in alcohol use disorders. Preliminary studies set up the framework to develop an alcohol-condition specific measure scale in order to sharpen and standardized evaluation in alcoholism.

OP61
The Nature and Extend of Drug Use in Izmir, Turkey

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This study as part of National Assessment on Drug Abuse 2003-Turkey (UNODC) identifies the patterns and trends of drug use in Izmir. In-depth interviews were conducted with 53 key informants and 71 (69 male, 2 female) drug users (21 in treatment sample, 26 in prison sample, 24 in community sample; mean age 24.0±6.5). Cannabis and inhalants are the two most major drugs used. Majority of key informants believe that illicit drug use is increasing in the city. Cannabis use was considered as non-harmful, less harmful than smoking. Cannabis users come to treatment because of either disapproval of their parents or psychological, legal, occupational or social life problems. The age of first use of cannabis was 15. Drug use was thought to be related to thefts and purse snatching. Children living on the streets were quite stigmatized by inhalant use. Poverty, lack of social opportunities, migration to bigger, more industrialized cities, difficulties to stick to the city life, lack of education of parents, all social and economical inequalities of life in a developing country make so many children to face a lot of difficulties from their earlier years. "Bully makes the street life easier" as they say. The age of first use of inhalants was 12.5.

Nearly 60% of drug users reported not being treated. Injecting drug use was not common except opiate users. Increased availability had been stated for cannabis, inhalants, ecstasy and benzodiazepines. Ecstasy use is thought to be increasing in Izmir. The young people consider ecstasy as non-harmful and can be used "property". For the popular culture in our country nowadays, "the only way to entertain oneself is going to the parties, disco, and clubs which is promoted by the media, especially by television programs must be taken seriously.

OP62
Association between Substance Use and Sexual Behaviors among High School Students

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Objective: To examine the association between substance use and sexual behaviors among high-school students.

Methods: The subjects were 3765 boys and 5377 girls in years 7, 9 and 11 and vocational school year 2 of 38 randomly selected schools in four provinces in Southern Thailand in 2004. Data regarding lifetime history of sexual intercourse, unsafe sex and unintended pregnancies, and lifetime use of alcohol, cigarette, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS), club drugs, opiate group, inhalants and kratom (mitragynine speciosa-local addictive plant) were collected through a self-completed and anonymous questionnaire.

Results: The prevalence rates of lifetime sexual intercourse were 10.4% and 3.7% in boys and girls, respectively. Adjusting for age and grade level, lifetime alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulant use was significantly associated with the increased likelihood of having sexual intercourse in both boys and girls. Opiate use was an independent predictor of sexual intercourse in boys, but not in girls; so was club drug use in girls. Poor academic performance was significantly associated with sexual intercourse in boys, but not in girls. On their last sexual intercourse, 22.9% of boys used alcohol or substance before having the activity, and 22.1% did not use any kind of contraception, the corresponding percentages in girls were 11.1% and 23.2%. Furthermore, 18.6% of boys had gotten someone pregnant, and 10.1% of girls had ever been pregnant.

Conclusions: The association between substance use and sexual behaviors differed across gender. Age and gender appropriate health promotion program for prevention of substance use and unsafe sexual behaviors is needed.

OP63
Cannabis and Common Mental Health Problems: A Large Prospective Study

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Anxiety/Depression and cannabis use by young people are comorbid and constitute major public health concerns. There is a need to better understand the possible cause-effect nature of their association.

Objective: To determine whether age of first use or frequency of use of cannabis is associated with mental health problems in young adults, independent of known confounders and whether the association is mediated by the use of other illicit drugs.

Methods: This is a 21-year longitudinal pre-birth prospective cohort study; designed to follow-up of mothers and their children to 21 years after the child's birth.