

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221849240>

Differentiation between opiate addicts in relation to judicial problems

Article in *Srpski arhiv za celokupno lekarstvo* · December 2011

DOI: 10.2298/SARH11S1052V · Source: PubMed

CITATION

1

READS

37

8 authors, including:



Goran Mihajlović

University of Kragujevac

39 PUBLICATIONS 65 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Jasmina Barišić

Klinički centar Srbije

20 PUBLICATIONS 12 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Slobodan Jankovic

University of Kragujevac

392 PUBLICATIONS 1,050 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Katarina Radonjic

University of Kragujevac

5 PUBLICATIONS 8 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Meta-analysis of reslizumab vs. placebo in severe eosinophilic asthma [View project](#)

All content following this page was uploaded by **Goran Mihajlović** on 24 October 2016.

The user has requested enhancement of the downloaded file. All in-text references [underlined in blue](#) are added to the original document and are linked to publications on ResearchGate, letting you access and read them immediately.

Differentiation between Opiate Addicts in Relation to Judicial Problems

Goran Vasić¹, Goran Mihajlović², Natalija Jovanović-Mihajlović³, Milosav Rafajlović¹, Jasmina Barišić⁴, Slavica Djukić-Dejanović², Slobodan Janković², Katarina Radonjić²

¹Department of Psychiatry, General Hospital, Valjevo, Serbia;

²Medical Faculty, University of Kragujevac, Psychiatry Clinic, Kragujevac, Serbia;

³Neurology Clinic, Clinical Centre, Kragujevac, Serbia;

⁴Clinic of Psychiatry, Clinical Centre of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

SUMMARY

Introduction Some research results point to significant benefit in the use of methadone substitution treatment in reduction of criminogenic activities in opiate addicts, as in positive affect on their somatic and mental state.

Objective The objective of the study was to indicate factors which lead to criminogenic activities in addicts with judicial problems before entering substitute, methadone program.

Methods Addicts were divided into two groups: addicts who had judicial problems before they entered substitution methadone program (group A-46 addicts) and addicts without judicial problems (group B-20 addicts). A questionnaire containing basic data about the addicts in the treatment program (Pompidou questionnaire) was for questioning.

Results A statistically significant difference was recorded related to the way of taking PAS. The largest number of examinees from the group A took primal PAS intravenously (41; 89.1%), while from the group B 11 took it intravenously (55.0%). The majority of examinees in the group A committed the first criminal act before taking PAS (psychoactive substances) (19; 41.3%), then after taking so-called harder PAS (16; 34.8%), and finally after taking the so-called lighter PAS (11; 23.9%). In somewhat over half of the examinees in the group A (24; 52.2%) the measure of juvenile court was imposed. A suspended sentence was passed upon 19 (41.3%) examinee, then prison sentence in 16 (34.8%), multiple prison sentences in 6 (13.0%) and misdemeanour in 4 (8.7%).

Conclusion Future research at our centre should show the efficiency of methadone program in a decrease of risky behaviour, degree of criminogenic activity and judicial problems, improvement of life quality, as well as show the ways for preventive acting.

Keywords: addicts; opiates; judicial problems

INTRODUCTION

A great number of studies comparing (which/that compare) involvement of offenders abusing psychoactive substances (PAS), with involvement of those not using them, indicate that the abuse of PAS can be a factor leading to crime and social-pathological behaviour in general. Using the method of parallel groups, researchers compared addicts and delinquents, as groups of subjects with different forms of deviant behaviour. Persons predisposed to delinquent forms of behaviour often, in a psychological sense, develop from one form of early neglect. Under greater pressure, a delinquent chooses different behaviour patterns, which are not always regressive in their character and are less obvious than those chosen by an addict. Unlike a delinquent, the addict is always on the verge of losing contact with reality and mental disintegration due to weak and with time even weaker object relations and connections with the real world [1].

Although there is a considerable degree of agreement among researchers regarding a strong connection between PAS abuse and

criminogenic behaviour, there are also significant differences in interpretations of the sequence of events, i.e. differentiating the cause from the consequence. The approach claiming that criminal lifestyle leads to experimenting with PAS is supported by some researches [2, 3]. Authors claiming that addiction causes criminogenic behaviour give reference to the model of economic coercion established by Clayton and Touchfield (1982). Furthermore, results of some longitudinal studies indicate that criminogenic behaviour and abuse of PAS are preceded by similar sets of social, psychological, and demographic variables [4].

Some researches suggest that in 2/3 of subjects PAS abuse is preceded by criminal behaviour, which is especially true if altered antisocial behaviour with elements of violence has been observed early in youth. Other authors suggest that in 50% of subjects' criminogenic activity occurs first, then in 25% of subjects PAS consummation is primary, and in the remaining 25% of subjects these two occur simultaneously. This process could be developed because: 1) some persons completely devote themselves to PAS consummation and become offenders

Correspondence to:

Goran VASIĆ
Oslobodioci Valjeva 48/9
14000 Valjevo
Serbia
govas@sbb.rs

