

HEROIN ADDICTION AND SOCIAL DEVIANT CONDITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization heroin addiction is quite widespread worldwide, it is in third place right after vascular and cancer diseases. Heroin addiction leads to the development of many somatic and psychological difficulties, it also causes a large number of social deviant conditions. Addicts are forced to commit thefts, robberies, prostitution in order to obtain funds for the purchase of drugs so the substitution treatment in heroin addiction is of great importance.

The AIM of this research is show the effectiveness of treatment with substitution therapy in reducing social deviant conditions among heroin addicts

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The cross-sectional study was conducted in the Day Hospital for Addictions department of Psychiatric Hospital Skopje over a period of two years. Two groups of 20 patients each with Dg F11.22 (opiate addiction) were evaluated. The first group consisted of outpatients (who entered the substitution treatment) and the second group consisted of patients who had already been in treatment for 2 years.

Patients were evaluated using a semi-structured questionnaire specifically designed for the study. Sociodemographic data were: marital status, educational status, employment, frequency of robberies, frequency of theft, presence prostitution. The results of this study were analyzed using descriptive methods and t- test. Quantitative data were expressed in number and percentage.

The p value of statistical significance was set at p<0.05.

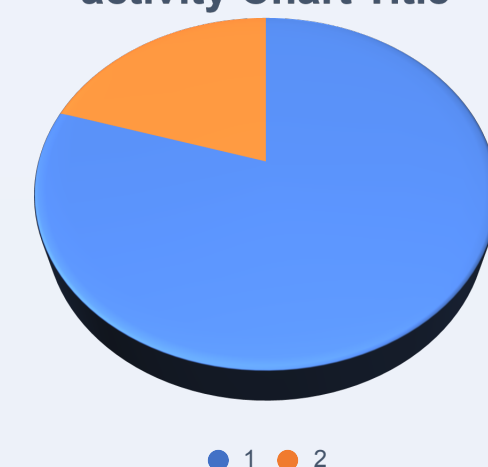
RESULTS:

The results in our study show that there is a significant statistical difference in heroin abuse before treatment and after 2 years of treatment with methadone therapy (p=0.01). Also in our study we got that the level of education (p=0,003), marital status (p=0,02); employment (p=0, 03) and criminal activities (p=0,04) were statistical significantly higher in patients before methadone therapy. Table1, Also The obtained results showed that there is a significant statistical difference in social deviant conditions before treatment and after 2 years of treatment with substitution therapy (p=0,03).

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics and frequency of criminal activity between examination groups

parameter	Group A with family support (means ±SD)	Group A with family support (means ±SD)	t-test	P level
Age (years)	29.5 ± 6.4	27.3 ± 6.2	1,12	0,07
Marital status (married/unmarried)	73,3% / 26,7%	37,3%/62,7%	2,14	0,01
employment	64,3%/35,7%	35,5%/65,5%	2,74	0,001
Frequency of criminal activity	95,5%/0,5%	74,6%/25,4%	2,79	0,001

Figure 1 Criminal activity Chart Title



DISCUSSION

Also the results in study (Gabriele Fisher et all) show the effectiveness of the methadone treatment in reducing both opiate use and a criminal activities on the treatment of 6 months. Subjects were followed up at the one month and six month after they had been prescribed methadone

Use of heroin decreased by 50%.

There was a significant reduction on injecting behavior, and high-risk behaviors..

there were no increases in the use of other drugs,

Certain subjects having found work.

So the important finding is that methadone treatment is most effective to treat criminal activities

retention in the treatment was a highly important

Of course the social support and the support of community is very important

It is very important to say that If these institution work together the heroin users will be finished his education, will be make a family and found a job. So heroin user will be live as a normal person

CONCLUSION

The results obtained in our study indicated the effectiveness of substitution therapy in reducing social deviant conditions in the heroin-dependent population, thus achieving a peaceful and safe society.

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