In the Chechen republic among the drivers delivered to survey the age over 40 years prevails. Among delivered for infringement of a social order that of under 30 years

P295

Safe consumption rooms – A project for the future?

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The safe consumption rooms (DCRs) are integrated in programs to reduce drug-related harms. These places have developed since the mid-1980s, and now-a-days they exist in a lot of European countries, and also in Canada and Australia. The authors describe historic data as well as the main purposes, physical and human conditions, and typical users of DCRs, and make a review about studies concerning results and evaluation of their impact.

Arguments supporting and rejecting DCRs are presented and discussed. The particular case of Portugal is also mentioned, refering the law and the real actual situation. The authors support the idea that, while the benefits should not be exaggerated, these facilities can make a positive contribution to reducing drug-related harms in Portugal, in a future not so distant.

P296

New drugs in the treatment of tobacco addiction

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Background and aims: Both psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy approaches are needed to a successful treatment of tobacco addiction. Until now, bupropion and nicotine substitutes where the more important pharmacological agents, but things are becoming to change.

Methods: The authors make a review about the new drugs available.

Results: Varenicline tartrate has been approved by FDA in May of 2006, and preliminary studies of efficacy reveal percentages of tobacco cessation even higher than bupropion. Rimonabant is another new drug with potential utility in tobacco addiction. It is the first selective blocker of canabinoid receptors CB1. Selegiline and Topiramate can be useful in cases of comorbidity or resistance to other drugs, but they need more studies to establish their utility in treatment of tobacco addiction. Antinicotine vaccines are also been discussed, because they could reduce the cerebral distribution of nicotine, and then act in the positive reinforcement of tobacco addiction.

Conclusions: Varenicline and rimonabant are two promising drugs in farmacological treatment of tobacco addiction

P297

Quantitative EEG after activation methods in chronic patients with alcohol dependence

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Background and aims: In our study, the magnitude of EEG power spectra of delta, theta, alpha and beta power was examined to address the relationship between EEG spectral changes after activation methods and alcohol dependence. Electroencephalography has shown that the brain activity of alcoholics and nonalcoholics differs in some characteristic ways. These differences are consistent with an imbalance between excitation and inhibition processes in the brains of alcoholics.

Methods: We examined eyes-closed resting EEG and EEG after activation procedures (eyes-open, hyperventilation). A group of 54 male chronic alcoholics were selected according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. We compared this group with 54 age- and gender-matched control subjects from the group of healthy volunteers. All subjects in both groups were Caucasians.

Results: Our results in power spectra of activated EEG /after eyes-open period, hyperventilation) showed statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods between alcohol dependent patients and healthy volunteers. Our data manifested significant contrast in modulation of alpha activity after EEG activation using eyes-open test.

Conclusions: In previous studies researchers compared eyes-closed resting EEG spectra in alcohol dependent study participants and age- and gender-matched control subjects. The present study reported statistically significant differences in reactivity to activation methods in both groups. Hence, the EEG spectra after activation methods in children of alcoholic, especially before alcohol exposure, need to be examined to consider these differences in reactivity to activation methods as an endophenotype marker of chronic alcoholism.

P298

Designing and evaluation of reliability and validity of a visual cue – induced craving assessment task for intravenous heroin users

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Introduction: we evaluate the effects of a diverse set of visual cues on subjective craving for intravenous heroin users (IHUs) then; we designed and assessed reliability and validity of a Visual Cue – Induced Craving Assessment Task (VCICT) for induction of subjective craving among IHUs.

Methods: first, five sessions were held with IHUs groups to provide a list of visual signs that might evoke heroin craving. According to this list, needed photographs provided from real situations. Intravenous Heroin Users were asked to score the severity of their craving induced by each photo on a self report. Second, for designing of VCICT, we used ten most provocative cues. We used the Opiate Withdrawal Symptoms Checklist (OWSC) before and after exposure to cues, Barret Impulsivity Scale (BIS) and the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). 30 male IHUs entered this study before treatment.

Results: packed and open powder of heroin, injecting syringe and act of injection had the largest effect on induction of craving. VCICT score was significantly correlated with drug component of ASI and the post exposure score in OWSC that shows the validity of task. Test–retest of cue exposure with one day interval showed higher level of reliability (82%). Responder group to VCICT (17 out of 30) showed higher level of cognitive impulsivity.

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