



CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG ADDICTION

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the issues of medical and social consequences of drug addiction. Today, drug addiction is a disease that has its own etiological, epidemiological and clinical patterns. In terms of the speed of spread and population coverage, it has all the signs of an epidemic. This disease has all stages except one - recovery, i.e. there is no return to the original level of health and social status.

Key words: *drug addiction, substance abuse, disease, medical consequences, health, social consequences.*

Introduction

Today, the spread of drug addiction in Ukraine has become epidemic in nature, covering the entire territory of the country, especially its eastern part and, to a greater extent, the southern part. Prevention of drug addiction, as some scientists believe, is a matter of national security and ensuring the survival of the nation.

The issues raised in this publication were dealt with by such scientific researchers as I. B.Vlasova, V.F.Egorov, V.N.Kuzminov, I.M.Pyatnitskaya and others. According to various expert estimates, the real number of drug addicts in the country significantly exceeds the number of patients registered: For every registered drug user, there are 50 unregistered ones.

In Ukraine, handicraft drugs, primarily of plant origin (opiates, cannabis preparations), are most widespread. The spread of drug addiction in Ukraine is influenced by a number of conditions: (a) geographical location, (b) climatic conditions and (c) demographic characteristics. The geopolitical position of the country is characterized by the fact that it is located in the center of Europe. Ukraine is a country of drug transit from Central Asian countries to the central regions of Russia (primarily Moscow and St. Petersburg), countries of Western and Central Europe. Some of the drugs passed through in this way inevitably end up in Ukraine and contribute to the growth of the number of drug addicts.



The climatic conditions of Ukraine allow the cultivation of various varieties of poppy, hemp and some other plants containing addictive substances, which serves as the basis for the formation of a raw material base for the domestic illegal drug business and aggravates the drug situation in the country. The demographic features of Ukraine are the heterogeneity of its regions.

Thus, in some regions the rural population predominates, in others with developed industry the urban population predominates. For years, layers of the population of diverse ethnic composition moved from all over the Soviet Union to the industrial regions of the east and southeast of the country. Here one could easily find work in metallurgical plants factories, coal mines, get housing. The Russian language dominated in communication.

Material and methods

As a result, a so-called “marginal culture” has formed in the southeastern region, which is characterized by the absence of national traditions and foundations. In addition, in the eastern region the influence of processes occurring in Russia is more significant, in the western region - Poland and Hungary, in Crimea - Russia and Turkey. More than 70 years ago, the western regions of Ukraine were part of other states, which also significantly affected the mentality and lifestyle of citizens. Recently, due to unrest and military operations in the Caucasus and Transcaucasia, the flow of residents of these regions to Ukraine has increased.

They settled mainly in the southeastern and eastern regions. The number of migrants from East, Southeast Asia, and Africa has increased, one of whose illegal businesses is often drug trafficking. The ongoing economic crisis in Ukraine, on the one hand, has led to a high level of borderline neuropsychiatric disorders, a change in the worldview of citizens, a decrease in the general educational level, and, on the other hand, to the curtailment of treatment and preventive programs aimed at reducing the spread of drug addiction and reducing the harm associated with the consequences of a high level of drug addiction in the population. The incidence of drug addiction among the population in Ukraine has had a steady upward trend throughout the years of the country's independence.

The pace of development of this epidemic increased sharply in 1991, when the country began a transition to new forms of economic management and social structure, which was accompanied by a sharp decline in the living standards of significant masses of the population, devaluation and destruction of the previous value system and other unfavorable processes in society. This was manifested to a



greater extent in industrially developed areas, where these negative social processes became particularly acute due to a sharp decline in industrial production.

Among the medical consequences of drug addiction, characteristic changes in the personality of patients attract attention. In the process of drug addiction, their psyche is gradually devastated, their interests are reduced, and their emotions are impoverished. At the very beginning of it, pronounced affective disorders are observed, which determine changes in the personality structure in the direction of emotional instability, increased sensitivity (“mimosa-like”), and a tendency to respond inadequately to the environment: hysterically excitable forms of response predominate, reactions in the form of dysphoric depression - gloomy, melancholy, irritable and angry mood that increases under the influence of external stimuli.

During the course of the disease, individual personality characteristics are gradually smoothed out, leveled out, and patients become more and more similar to each other. Their behavior is mainly determined by hysterical and depressive forms of reaction. It is also necessary to note the constant deceit of patients, lack of a sense of duty, self-criticism, and frivolous attitude towards drug addiction and its consequences. A peculiar psychopath-like defect is formed with personality degradation and a pronounced moral and ethical decline, when all the latter's activity is aimed at acquiring the drug and obtaining funds for its purchase, which patients sometimes do with unusual resourcefulness.

The development of intellectual-mnemonic disorders (mental disorders of a degrading type and with memory impairment) and the formation of a psychoorganic syndrome are manifested by a weakening of memory and a decrease in intelligence and incontinence of affects (mood disorders, changes in the degree of intensity of emotions, often low or complete inability to experience some of them).

Asthenic phenomena are often observed: (a) increased fatigue and exhaustion with extreme instability of mood; (b) weakening of self-control, impatience, restlessness; (c) sleep disturbance; (d) loss of the ability for prolonged mental and physical stress; (e) intolerance to loud sounds, bright lights, strong odors, etc. Memory impairment affects all types to one degree or another.

With the greatest consistency, a weakening of memory, a decrease in the ability to memorize, a decrease in its reserves and a weakening of the ability to reproduce are revealed; it is also possible loss, especially on recent important events. Attention span is significantly limited and distractibility increases. The quality of perception suffers; in a certain situation, only partial details are captured, and not the essence of what is happening.



Orientation deteriorates, first in the surrounding society, then in one's own personality. The level of thinking decreases, which is manifested by impoverishment of concepts and ideas, weakness of judgment, and inability to adequately assess the situation and one's capabilities. The pace of thought processes is slower, and there is an increased tendency to detail.

All this is observed in almost all types of drug addiction. These disorders occur especially quickly in patients who inhale vapors of organic solvents. In second place in the rate of development of intellectual disorders among them are observed with the abuse of barbiturates and other sedatives.

Result and discussion

In the final stages of these forms of drug addiction, a state of organic dementia develops - dementia, which is divided into 2 groups - total and partial. In third place in terms of the rate of development of these changes are patients who abuse drugs prepared from ephedrine and ephedrine-containing mixtures. In patients who abuse cannabis drugs, or those with opium addiction, including heroin, intellectual-mnemonic disorders develop in a more distant period. These kinds of changes develop more quickly in people of school age and adolescence and against the background of congenital or acquired lesions of the central nervous system.

Among the dangerous medical consequences of drug addiction and substance abuse is a high risk of suicide. According to various researchers, in drug addicts the latter is significantly increased compared to healthy individuals by 5-20 times. Patients exhibit true suicidal tendencies: they inflict severe injuries on themselves (usually cuts), but more often they do this for a demonstrative purpose or to relieve tension at the height of passion (in these cases, at the sight of blood, patients usually calm down).

Chronic intoxication with narcotic substances leads to somatic complications such as the development of a chronic course of the disease or its complication. Patients with drug addiction often experience infections due to violations of aseptic rules when administering drugs. Among infectious diseases, the most common are hepatitis (B, C, D), AIDS and septicemia (one of the forms of sepsis). The most common pathology associated with opium addiction is infectious and toxic hepatitis.

In almost all patients who consume chemically treated poppy straw, the liver is enlarged and painful on palpation, i.e., there are manifestations of toxic or infectious hepatitis, hepatosis (fatty degeneration).

Due to impaired cholesterol metabolism, changes in the myocardium are observed. In severe cases, death may occur from acute cardiovascular failure against



the background of chronic dystrophic changes. Kidney disease in patients with opium addiction most often manifests itself as edema, changes in urine, in the form of nephritis (inflammatory changes in the kidneys) or acute renal failure. Long-term abuse of opiates causes the deposition of protein complexes in the kidneys, accompanied by disruption of their function.

Conclusion

As we see, today the population suffering from drug addiction continues to grow, especially in the eastern and southeastern regions of Ukraine, mainly in cities, although there is a consistent similar trend in rural areas. Most drug users use homemade drugs. The number of users of “hard” smuggled drugs – heroin and cocaine – is increasing. The number of different forms of drug addiction has increased significantly: non-narcotic analgesics, homemade psychostimulants from various drugs. The spread of drug addiction has serious medical and social consequences, manifested by the spread of infectious diseases (primarily HIV infection), an increase in crime, and the loss of a large part of the young population from socially useful activities.

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