CORRELATES OF POLYDRUG USE AMONG INJECTION DRUG USERS: THE ROLE OF SOCIOECONOMIC STRESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

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Introduction

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to study the polydrug use of individuals admitted to drug treatment programs, and to understand the role of various socioecomic stressors and personal atributes associated with it.

Methods

Sample: Proportionate random sample of injection drug users (IDUs) from 50 communities from the United States.

Primary drug of injection:

- Opioid (87%)

Recruitment period:

- May 2002-June 2003

Eligibility criteria:

- Injecting drug use within 30 days
- Previous to the interview
- Not enrolled in a drug treatment program
- Not confined to a residential program
- Not living with a partner
- Not under age 18 years or older

Measures

Socioeconomic:

- Gender
- Age
- Marital status
- Educational level

Health related variables:

- Depression
- Anxiety

Behavioral measures:

- Frequency of injecting
- Frequency of use of injected drugs

Study Aim

To determine socioeconomic and health related variables associated with polysubstance use among injection drug users.

Preliminary Studies

Depression symptoms have been related to polysubstance use involving cocaine among injecting drug users in a high risk study population (Wang, 1997).

Methods

Table 1. Trend of polydrug use among injection drug users: national sample (n=400) (n=400)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of drugs</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Non-injected drug classes used (last week)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-injected drugs</th>
<th># of drugs</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquilizers</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Relationship of polydrug use and sociodemographic variables among IDUs (n=400)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Male 19-34</th>
<th>Female 19-34</th>
<th>19-34 years</th>
<th>19-34 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Relationship of polydrug use and stress related variables among IDUs (n=400)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stress related variables</th>
<th>19-34 years</th>
<th>19-34 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stress +</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress -</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. Multiple logistic regression* (n=400)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- The main finding of this study is the high prevalence of polydrug use among injection drug users.
- Family stress and depression were significantly related to polydrug use.
- IDUs younger than 35 years were more likely to use two or more drugs.

References

- To determine sociodemographics and health related status with polydrug use.
- Quality of life was the only significant health related variables associated with polydrug use.
- Table 2 shows that quality of life was the only significant health related variables associated with polydrug use.
- No significant differences were found between educational level and employment status with polydrug use.
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