THERAPISTS'AND PATIENTS'OPINIONS ON APPLICATION OF BIOLOGICAL MARKERS FOR ALCOHOL USE IN ALCOHOLISM TREATMENT CENTERS

SUMMARY

An attempt was made to survey opinions of therapists (N = 119) and patients (N = 141) concerning the use of simple laboratory tests for detection of a recent alcohol consumption. In both groups under study respondents definitely against. as well as those definitely for such tests were found. The former frequently expressed their apprehension that the tests might adversely affect therapeutic relationship, besides, they emphasized inefficacy of external control of and external motivation to abstinence. Supporters of biological markers pointed out the need for availability of objective data about the patient as well as the favorable effect of the tests on maintenance of abstinence. Patients, as compared to therapists. significantly more often declared their positive attitude towards the tests. Among therapists positive opinions about the tests were expressed more often by those longer involved in the treatment of alcoholism.

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