

uzależnienie i bardzo późny początek powstania uzależnienia (44 os.). Nie stwierdzono zależności między picią a przynależnością do wyodrębnionych skupień. Odsetki osób z omami, majaczeniem drzennym, napadami drgawkowymi, piciem porannym, pobytami w szpitalu wywołanymi nadużywaniem alkoholu były większe w skupieniach osób ciężiej uzależnionych od alkoholu. Aresztowania będące w związku z nadużywaniem alkoholu były częściej zgłaszane przez osoby o wcześniejszym początku uzależnienia. Nie stwierdzono związku między ciężkością uzależnienia alkoholowego a aresztowaniami będącymi w związku z nadużywaniem alkoholu.

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Alcohol dependence typology based on the disease severity and age of onset. Results of a WHO cross-cultural study

Summary

A cross-cultural collaborative study coordinated by the Addiction Research Foundation (Toronto, Canada) was carried out under the auspices of the WHO. The aim of the research was a pooled analysis of a sample of 437 subjects (314 males and 123 females) seeking outpatient alcohol treatment in the years 1993-1996. In the group studied 50 subjects came from Australia, 92 from Mexico, 119 from Poland, 51 from Sweden and 125 from Canada. The national samples were not homogeneous as to the percentage of patients with a severe dependence (SADD score > 19): those with a severe dependence constituted 44% of the Australian sample, 34% of Mexican, 51% of Polish, 10% of Swedish, and 47% of the Canadian sample. Dependence severity was measured using the Short Alcohol Dependence Data (SADD) questionnaire. Moreover, a detailed structured clinical interview was conducted with all the participants. The following 5 homogeneous patient groups were distinguished in the original sample by means of cluster analysis: (I) severe dependence and early onset (94 cases); (II) severe dependence and late onset (63 cases); (III) mild dependence and early onset (117 cases); (IV) mild dependence and late onset (117 cases) (V) mild dependence and very late onset (44 cases). No relationship was found between gender and membership in any of these clusters. Percentages of patients with hallucinations, delirium tremens, alcohol-related seizures, morning drinking, and hospitalizations due to alcohol abuse were higher in clusters grouping patients with a more severe alcohol dependence. Alcohol-related arrests were more often reported by those with an earlier age of dependence onset. No relationship was found between alcohol dependence severity and alcohol-related arrests.

Key words: cross-cultural research / typology of alcoholism / alcohol dependence – severity / alcohol dependence – age of onset