

Wiedza i postawy psychiatrów wobec osób uzależnionych od substancji psychoaktywnych oraz sposoby ich leczenia na Węgrzech

Knowledge of and attitudes about drug addicts and their treatment among psychiatrists in Hungary

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Abstract – Introduction. The objective of the study was to investigate the knowledge, opinions and attitudes of Hungarian psychiatrists about drug addicts and their treatment.

Methods. A total of 118 psychiatrists (40% male, average age 44.4 years) were administered an anonymous questionnaire in 2001.

Results. Two thirds of the surveyed professionals (68%) preferred other cases than addicted patients, and 75% preferred alcohol patients to drug addicts. Most of the professionals considered drug addiction to be something not particularly psychiatric. They rather suggested detoxification at internal-intensive units followed by rehabilitation with a combination of psychiatric and social care. In addition to the rejection of drug-addicted patients, several gaps in the knowledge of psychiatrists about addiction-related issues were identified.

Conclusion. In view of the present results, it seems necessary to provide more education for psychiatrists about addiction-related issues and also additional training to increase their acceptance of and responsibility for drug-addicted patients.

Key words: attitudes toward drug users, knowledge about drug issues, psychiatrists

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