

SMOKED METHAMPHETAMINE “SHABÚ” AND PSYCHOSIS

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INTRODUCTION

“Shabú” is the slang term for smoked methamphetamine used mainly in Asia. Methamphetamine is a highly stimulant of the central nervous system. During the last year, the number of psychiatry admissions for psychotic syndromes induced by this drug has increased in Barcelona.

The aim of this study is to analyze the clinical features and course of patients with psychosis and methamphetamine dependence admitted in the Dual Pathology Unit of Parc de Salut Mar during 2016.

METHODS

We included a total of 9 patients hospitalized at the Dual Pathology inpatients ward of the hospital. 7 had positive urine test for methamphetamine at the moment of admission. Clinical and demographic data were collected, and according to clinical evolution they were classified into three groups: group-1: recovery during the first week; group-2: recovery lasts more than a week but less than a month; group-3: no recovery after 1 month of treatment.

RESULTS

Our sample consisted in 2 women and 7 men (22,8% vs 77,8%), most of them older than 35 years old, married, from Philippines and living in the same district of Barcelona. Just 2 patients have familiar history of psychosis and 4 were admitted twice during the same year. 66,7% had not recovered after 1 month. Most of them were diagnosed of non-specified psychosis.

Table 2. Clinical data.

Variable	Patients (n=9)
Involuntary hospitalisation (%)	9 (100)
Days of hospitalisation	27,2 ± 12,7
Recovery (%)	
During the first week	2 (22,2)
More than 1 week and less than a month	1 (11,1)
No recovery after 1 month	6 (66,7)
Main cause of hospitalisation (%)	
Hallucination and delusions	8
Mania	1
Familiar history (%)	
Yes: No	2:7 (22,2:77,8)
Diagnosis (%)	
No specified psychosis	6 (66,7)
Induced psychosis	1 (11,1)
Schizoafective	1 (11,1)
Delusional	1 (11,1)

Numbers represent mean ± standard deviation or frequencies.

Table 1. Demographic data.

Variable	Patients (n=9)
Age (years)	36 ± 9,79
Gender M:F (%)	7:2 (77,8:22,2)
Education n (%)*	
University	0 (0)
Pre-University	2 (22,2)
Secondary	1 (11,1)
Primary	6 (66,7)
Marital status (%)	
Single	3 (33,3)
Married	6 (66,7)
Divorced	0
Widow	0
Employment situation (%)	
Employed	4 (44,4)
Unemployed	5 (55,6)
Nationality (%)	
Spanish	2 (22,2)
Philippines	5 (55,6)
Others	2 (22,2)
Legal background (%)	
Yes: No	2:7 (22,2/77,8)

Numbers represent mean ± standard deviation or frequencies. M: Male, F: Female; *Level of education completed

CONCLUSIONS

- In our sample the age of onset for psychotic symptoms occurred later than in primary psychosis.
- An important cultural factor were present in this group of users cause they were living in the same area of the city and most of them were also from the same country.
- Despite of remaining drug-free during the hospitalization period, psychotic symptoms persisted for more than a month in 66,7% of cases, more than expected in substance induced psychosis and more similar to primary psychiatric syndromes.

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