

Subjects characteristics of medical requests to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit in Hospital del Mar

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Introduction

Addiction Liaison Psychiatric Units are frequently requested for other medical services due to the high prevalence of medical pathologies in substance use disorders. Knowing the patient's characteristics could improve the approach.

Objectives

To describe patient characteristics of all medical requests to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit from January 2010 to December 2016.

Material and methods

Study data was obtained from all patients that were referred to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit to assess addictive disorders and withdrawal symptoms related to drugs during 7 years in Hospital del Mar (Barcelona, Spain). Demographics and clinical data (substance use, dual diagnosis and infectious comorbidity) were obtained.

Results

2011 medical requests were referred to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit (78% men; mean age: 49+12years). The main medical services that requested were Gastroenterology (n=756, 37,6%), Infectious Medicine (n=504, 25,1%) and Internal Medicine (n=230, 11%) (Figure 1). Focusing in drugs, alcohol related queries came from Gastroenterology (n=187, 54%) in most cases and heroin related ones came from Infectious Medicine (n=154, 57,2%). When comparing the gender characteristics, alcohol and amphetamine related samples were 83% men and 90,9% men respectively meanwhile benzodiazepines and tobacco related were 60 % men. (Figure 2). Patients were usually referred to the community addiction treatment center.

Figure 1. Medical services that requested to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit

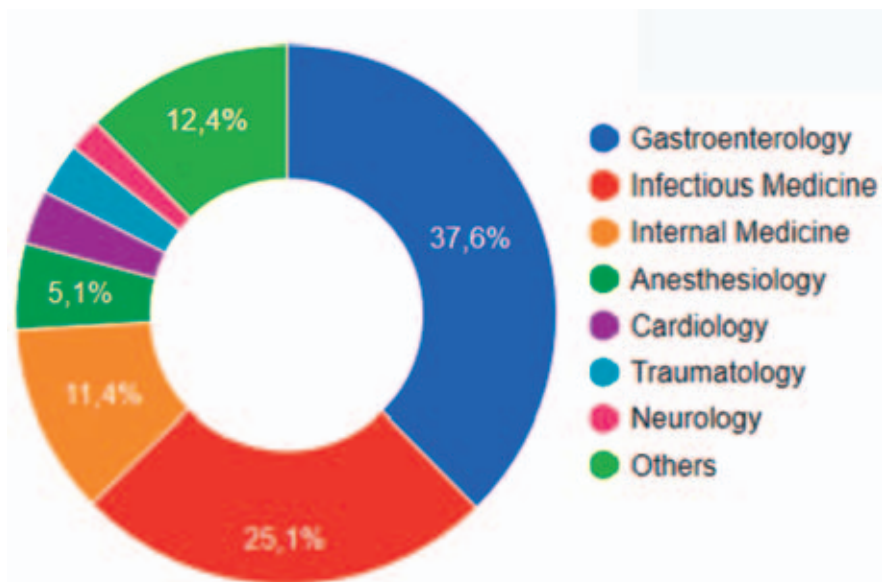
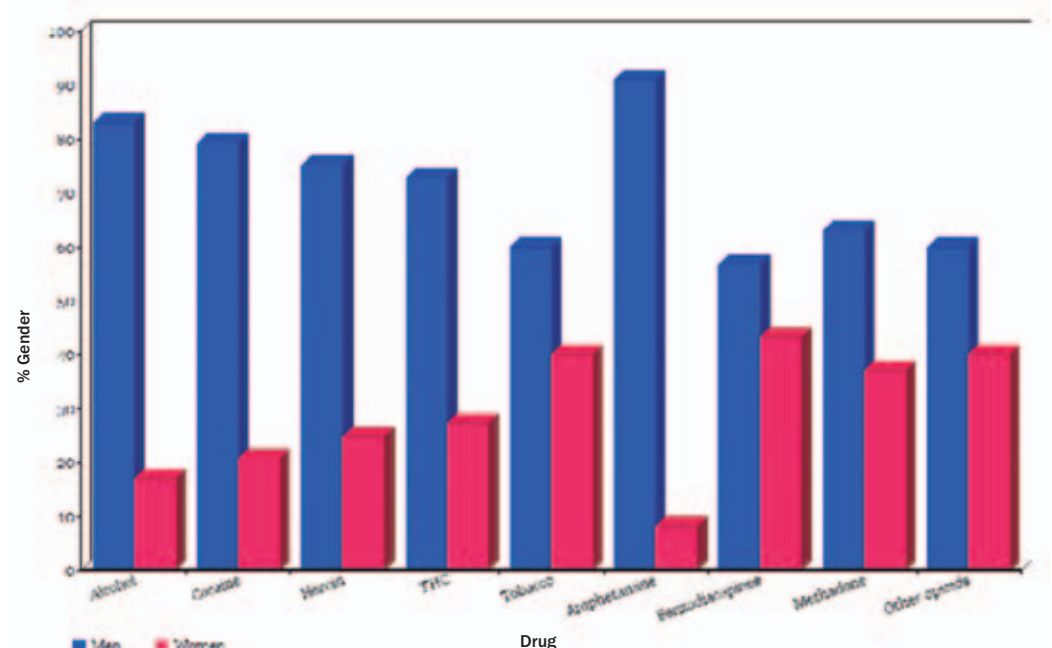


Figure 2. Description of gender in the requests referred to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit



Conclusions

Gastroenterology and Infectious Medicine were the main services that asked for drug problems to the Addiction Liaison Psychiatry Unit. Most of the subjects were men and the main drug was alcohol. The community addictions treatment center is the main resource at discharge.

References

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*No conflict of interests reported.