

**P54.12**

Endogenous ethanol and microbe associations at patients with alcoholic dependence

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Systematic usage of alcohol results in predominance of lipid metabolism in comparison with carbohydrate metabolism. Synthesis of endogenous ethanol is decreased. This is not the only cause of decreasing of endogenous ethanol synthesis. We found that patients suffering from alcoholism have essentially disturbed microbe ensembles in bowels. This dysbacteriosis not only disturbs their immune reactivity, results in deficiency in vitamins, aminoacids and other biologically active compounds, but also deprives organism of endogenous ethanol synthesized by some symbiotic microorganisms. Alcoholic dysbacteriosis indirectly causes appearance of fermentative pathology – decreasing of cycle Crebs enzymes activity that aggravates suppression of carbohydrate metabolism. Treatment of patients suffering from alcoholic dependence with probiotics such as bifidumbacterine and lactobacterine is insufficiently effective. We obtained combined bacterial preparation containing immobilized on the activated charcoal microbe association. These microorganisms consecutively enter into vital functions resulting in marked positive changes. Patients noted decreasing of need for alcohol. The level of endogenous ethanol in the blood increased, content of glucose and lipids, activities of lactate dehydrogenase, pyruvate kinase, aldehyde dehydrogenase, oxydoreductases normalized, activity of transferases decreased.

**P54.13**

Efficacy of oxcabazepin in alcohol relapse prevention – a pilot study

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**Introduction:** The anticonvulsant carbamazepine is used in alcohol withdrawal. It also reduced the relapse risk in a double-blind pilot study with 29 patients (Autor et al 19zz). However, its use in alcoholics is often limited because of its metabolism in the liver and hepatic impairment in alcoholism. This problem could be addressed by the use of the carbamazepine-derivative oxcabazepin, because unlike carbamazepine it is only metabolized by specific isoenzymes of the cytochrome P-450 3A group. No epoxide emerges in the metabolism, which explains the better tolerability of oxcabazepine.

**Methods:** We evaluated oxcabazepine for relapse prevention in ten high risk patients, who had repeatedly (mean 5 times in about 10 years of dependence) relapsed after detoxification and who had also failed to respond to acamprostate. Patients were seen weekly in our out-patient clinic after detoxification and received about 900mg oxcabazepine per day. All Patients fulfilled ICD-10 criteria for alcoholism and suffered from no other psychiatric disorder.

**Results:** Ten patients were treated, the overall tolerability was good. Four patients remained abstinent for at least 15 weeks (mean 20 weeks) under treatment, while treatment had to be terminated in four patients due to side effects, mainly an allergic skin reaction in three patients. Two more patients relapsed under oxcabazepin medication.

**Conclusion:** Altogether, oxcabazepin might warrant further investigation and may be useful in preventing alcohol relapse in some previously treatment-resistant alcoholics.

**P55. Substance related disorders – other****P55.01**

Addiction, stigma and the movies

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Social cognitions and attitudes about alcohol and drug use develop through direct experience and from the experience of others, and some conveyed through exposure to indirect socialising agents: books, magazines, advertisements and not least... movies. Some writers take this further by saying that movies, due to their enormous power of engagement, make history and dictate societal norms and values. I wish to explore some of the stereotypes of addiction using excerpts from mainstream movies and arrive at a framework for understanding their impact on the audience's world view. Since the 1920's cinema has, for better or worse, shaped society's view about drug and alcohol use and misuse. I have attempted to typify the alcohol and drug using movie character(s) according to stereotypes. I further assert that stigmatisation of the alcohol or drug user is influenced enormously through this form of communication. 20 film clips.

**P55.02**

Population survey of drug abusers attending a Swiss detoxification unit

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The main characteristics of patients admitted for inpatient detoxification in an University based substance abuse unit were assessed.

**Methods:** A short questionnaire was applied, investigating sociodemographic data, patterns of drug/alcohol consumption, previous treatments, outcome and therapeutics projects.

**Results:** The mean age of the 550 patients admitted during the 3-year observation period was 29.5±6.5 years. 36,5% were referred by GP's and 62,2% by professionals of the regional addiction network. 86,4% were polysubstance abusers, the main substance class being opiates. The mean drug abuse history was 9.1 years and 92,2% of the patients had previous withdrawal experiences, 19,1% of them in our unit. Whereas 56,5% planned to enter a therapeutic community after detoxification, only 29,3% actually maintained their initial project. No secular trends were identified over the 3 year observation period. Methadone therapy or previous withdrawal experience had no impact on outcome.

**Conclusions:** High level of care drug abuse programs not only reaches a wide range of patients, but may show good treatment outcome independent of patients profile.

**P55.03**

Topiramate in multidrug withdrawal – comparison with clonidine

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The pharmacological profile of topiramate suggests it could be rather valuable for opiate withdrawal. In fact, there is some evidence that topiramate acts, among others, through inhibition of a-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole propionic acid (AMPA) receptors, which play an important role in the withdrawal-induced activation of the locus coeruleus (LC) by glutamate.