

patients affected by low doses of radiation can be very useful for diagnostic and prognosis.

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NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF DISABLEMENT AND TREATMENT EFFICACY

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The aim of the investigation was to develop a tool for assessment functional and organic disablement in persons with mild cerebral and neurotic-like disorders and to assess therapy efficacy in terms of brain structures functioning. Neuropsychological test battery sensitive to minimal brain dysfunctions has been developed. Indices of different brain structures functioning (frontal lobes, profound structures, right and left hemispheres of the brain) have been analyzed under 5 different therapy courses. The subjects of the investigation were 115 male patients who had been involved into elimination of the Chernobyl NPP accident consequences in 1986–1987 years. Psychopathological investigation revealed a wide variety of the disorders in these persons which were considered as psychoorganic syndrome early stages. A specific type of these disorders pathogenesis has been revealed and therapy approaches have been developed. Neuropsychological assessment has showed the following items: (1) Brain damage profile typical for these disorders; (2) Sensitive and resistant brain functions to each therapy course; (3) Remedies influence profiles on different brain structures. This neuropsychological tool can be used in minimal brain dysfunction evaluation and description of early remedies side effects for the purpose of individual treatment course search and rehabilitation of the impaired functions.

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CHEMILUMINESCENT METHOD IN EXAMINATION OF MENTALLY DISTURBED CHERNOBYL "LIQUIDATORS"

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In the system of whole blood, with aid of method of spontaneous chemiluminescence (SCL), evaluating the level of oxygen active forms (OAF) and the method of induced chemiluminescence (ICL) with particles of latex, which determines metabolic activity of phagocytes, 73 former participants of the elimination of Chernobyl disaster consequences in 1986 so called "liquidators", who have afterwards developed a complex of psychosomatic and mental disorders of exogenous-organic type have been examined before treatment in 1995–1997. Two groups have been distinguished: (1) with dominating neurotic-like disorders and (2) with initial features of psychoorganic syndrome. 10 healthy donors served as controls. Both groups were characterized by an increased levels of SCL: 3.30 ± 0.30 , $p < 0.05$ (1 group), 3.72 ± 0.28 , $p < 0.001$ (2 group) compared with 2.16 ± 0.15 in control group. In ICL most of patients in both groups showed hypoxic type of OAF generation. Hyperoxic type of OAF generation was found more frequently in the 2 group than in the 1 group (26.4% and 5.3% of patients accordingly). Differences in ICL levels between 2 groups appeared to be significant ($p < 0.05$). Thus chemiluminescent method is perspective both for scientific research and for clinical practice in examining Chernobyl liquidators.

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INVOLUNTARY INTERNMENT — AND THEN? A STUDY OF TREATMENT AGAINST THE PATIENT'S WILL

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Baden-Württemberg's hospital accommodation law allows for the involuntary interment of patients who represent an acute danger to themselves or to others for 72 hours in a psychiatric clinic. After this time a judge must be consulted.

The subject of the study was a group of 70 involuntarily interred patients in the first days of treatment in the University Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Clinic in Tuebingen. Sociodemographic, illness and treatment data were considered and the attitudes of the patients thoroughly examined.

The long period of involuntary interment allowed by the law almost halves the number of cases that need to be considered by a judge. This applies particularly to younger patients with addiction disorders or disturbances of a neurotic nature. Older patients with organic brain diseases and schizophrenic patients are more likely to be detained on court orders.

While about two-thirds of the patients feel well-informed about their legal situation, only about a third consider preventative restraint as beneficial to their health.

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THE C.C.P.P.R.B.: THE RISK OF REFERENCES AND NOTICE DISPARITY

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The law of 20 December 1988 asserts in France the legality of the biomedical research but it bases its logic on four pillars: the reminder of the pre-eminence of a logic of person protection in the biomedical research, the clear definition of the status of the two main actors: the promoter and the investigator, the obligation of a free informed consent and the Consultative Committee for Protection of Persons in Biomedical Research (C.C.P.P.B.R.) as pivot structure. These independent committees with pluridisciplinarity composition, whose role is obligatory (decree of 27 December 1990) but whose notice has consultative value, are a look of the social body on clinic tests. This inquiry allows to have an overview on the functioning and the real activity of the C.C.P.P.B.R.. The law has to offer to all citizens a protection of equal measures on all the territory. Results show the difference between the claim essentially ethics and criteria of essentially scientific analysis. A statistical analysis (ANOVA) watch that the C.C.P.P.B.R. distribute in at least 7 different groups in function of criteria used. These verifications pose the problem of the harmonization of the functioning of committees and the inequality of citizens in term of protection.

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CUSTODY IN CONTEMPORARY PSYCHIATRY

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In the circumstances of contemporary social-psychiatric trend in which efforts are made to have as many outpatients as possible, the term (institution, significance) custody gains different meaning and is faced with different tasks. Also, the role and duties of a psychiatric patient's tutor is changed.

Today the institution of custody gets more of a dynamic meaning in social psychiatry. It means that it is not always a permanent measure to protect the rights and interests of patients, but should rather be considered a temporary measure which can be of help to achieve faster, more efficient and complete rehabilitation and re-socialization.

All legal proceedings of right and/or work abilities deprivation carried out by the authorized court in Belgrade during 1995. and 1996. were examined in order to get a better understanding how custody is provided and conveyed. Centers for social work as legal authorities for custody in court practice in FRJ, started this procedure in 52.47%, the authorized court in 19.18% and psychiatric hospitals in 28.75%. By these results the most common reasons for custody were: 1) Protection of the patient in 85.42%; 2) Protection of the family from the patient in 6.08%; 3) Protection of children from the patient in 8.25% and 4) Protection of the society from the patient in 3.25%. More than 50% of cases belongs to the group of endogenous psychoses, 31.42% to alcoholism, and less than one fifth to other different psychiatric diagnoses and clinical entities.

From the contemporary clinical and social psychiatry point of view, the institution of custody must be understood as a temporary measure, which can, in some phases and periods of the illness, be of help to health, social and/or legal status of a patient. Of course, mental retardation and progressed cases of sclerotic-senile psychiatric disorders must be here excluded. Custody should be properly used not only to protect interests of patients when their property and civil rights are concerned, but also in their rehabilitation process as a whole. Many times a so-called successive transition of partial work ability deprivation is used.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC CONSEQUENCES OF COMPULSORY NEUROLEPTIC TREATMENT OF NON-PSYCHOTIC INDIVIDUALS

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Negative attitude towards medicine and medicaments, disappointment (projection, generalization), disorders (neurotic, personality) fixation, self-esteem, interpersonal and marital problems and global functioning as result of violence, biological manifestation of stress and stigmatization, are compared in 3 groups of individuals, treated by neuroleptics:

1. Hospitalized under civil proceedings, when various degrees of pressure took place (Method: interview in nonclinic (are afraid of until now) setting after announcement in Kaunas newspaper Group Exploring Misusings in Psychiatry had been organized, screening upon ICD-9 diagnostic criteria (1992): from 61 persons who came to tell about their horrible experience 19 were found as being schizophrenics;
2. Dissidents, convicted to be treated by Soviet Lithuania Supreme Court at KGB intention (Method: Interview "Victims of Psychiatric Abuse - after Their Point of View");
3. Patients with neurotic disorders, treated in psychiatric departments by tranquilizers, antidepressants and neuroleptics with Akathisia symptoms (Method; clinical observation and interview).

Results suggest, that the most dangerous action of compulsory neuroleptic treatment in the absence of psychosis to the individual took place, when he was young, had no support in the family, or had psychological problems.

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ACUTE CHANGES OF REGIONAL CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW FOLLOWING PLACEBO CONTROLLED INTRAVENOUS INJECTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE OR DIAZEPAM*

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Previous studies using magnetic resonance imaging sensitized to changes in cerebral blood oxygenation (fMRI) investigated focal brain activation following functional challenge and global vasomotor responses to the application of vasoactive substances. The following study extends this approach to neuroactive substances and, in addition, to the detection of a related placebo effect.

Six healthy males (mean age 27 y) underwent MRI at 2 Tesla (Siemens Magnetom) using the standard imaging headcoil and rf-spoiled FLASH MRI. Recordings were obtained in four sessions per subject and performed in a transverse section angulated to include parts of cortical and subcortical gray and white matter. In each session, a 1 min. intravenous injection of either 10 mg diazepam, 15 mg methamphetamine, or saline was performed after half of the dynamic imaging series. Subjects were not aware of the possibility that placebo might be applied, however knew whether they got a stimulating or sedating substance. MRI signal intensity time courses were determined in regions of interest covering the cerebral tissue of the section. Irrespective of the substance applied, an unspecific signal decrease appeared which preceded the actual injection and may reflect anticipation. Drug specific signal changes were observed in that signal time courses diverged after injection of verum, falling and rising in response to diazepam and methamphetamine, respectively. Overall, time courses under drug influence displayed enhanced intersubject variability compared to baseline.

These findings indicate that studies of psychotropic drug action will have to consider both an immanent placebo effect and the temporal evolution of the drug response studied.

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MEMORY DYSFUNCTION AND NEURO-IMAGING IN KORSAKOFF AND ALCOHOLISM

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Memory dysfunction in man can be caused by different disorders and may be related to several neuronal substrates. Initially, in Alzheimer's dementia structures in the median temporal lobe are involved especially. The Korsakoff syndrome, caused by thiamine deficiency, can be described as a diencephalic amnesia, in that especially thalamic and basal forebrain structures are affected. The relative contribution of the direct neurotoxic effect of chronic alcohol abuse per se on the brain and on neuropsychological deficits can be evaluated by comparing Korsakoff patients and chronic alcoholics without this syndrome. There is a certain paucity in studies comparing neuropsychological functions deficits in alcoholics and Korsakoff patients with abnormalities in specific memory-related brain structures with MRI.

In the present study, 15 Korsakoff patients were compared with 15 alcoholics, matched for age, sex and intelligence and to a