



Editor Note: Journal of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence | Volume 6, Issue 5

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Editor Note

Substance abuse is one of the leading preventable causes of mortality. Alcohol dependence and abuse is a heterogeneous psychiatric disorder associated with high heritability and neuroadaptations resulting from repeated drug exposure. Alcohol addiction and drug abuse can affect brain and behavior and thus can potentially destroy socio-economic activities of a person. Teenage and adolescent age groups are most vulnerable for substance abuse. The economic burden of drug and alcohol abuse manifests itself in the form of cost or expenditure in prevention, treatment and healthcare apart from greater risk of morbidity and mortality. Containment of alcohol and drug abuse is not unilateral and needs multiple perspectives and multidimensional approaches. Journal of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence publishes latest reports on wide range of relevant topics including physico-chemical properties, molecular and cellular activity, laboratory pharmacological investigations, clinical research, socio-economic and epidemiological studies pertaining to substance abuse. The Journal of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence serves as an interactive platform for researchers working in diverse areas associated with drug abuse, such as public policy, neurobiology, epidemiology, as well as treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with addictive disorders. Translational research, including preclinical and clinical aspects is also covered by the journal. The journal provides impressive information for addiction specialists, healthcare professionals, and individuals engaged in clinical care, research, education, and service delivery and evaluation. Generally drug abuse related hospitalization takes place due to drug overdose, psychotic episodes, adverse reactions, and infectious diseases associated with drug abuse such as human immune deficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), Hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis. Additionally, illicit manufacture and dispensation of drugs causes significant environmental contamination endangering the wildlife and humans. Illicit cultivation of coca bush or opium poppy results in tree felling, the clearance of forests and the loss of cultivable areas, leading to the loss of biodiversity. The current issue focusses on current clinical status on alcohol use disorders and substance abuse in association the demographic, food insecurity and nutritional status. Stanciu [1] provided recent status of alcohol use disorders, alcohol withdrawal as well as clinically feasible pharmacological options for substance abuse disorders. The article projects that alcohol is the most

widely abused substance with the incidence of associated disorder estimated at 8%. Approaches devoid of pharmacotherapy were associated with 70% relapse risk and only about 35 were reported to receive FDA approved medications. The article emphasized on non-benzodiazepine alternatives and suggested that Prazosin and Varenicline as having good potential. Food insecurity and lack of proper nutrition are rampant among individuals with mental illness or people who inject drugs (PWID). Particularly, a close nexus exists between food insecurity and drug abuse in the background of economic poverty. An estimated 12.7 million people globally inject drugs, majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries. Therefore, it is imperative that innovative approaches be employed to promote healthy nutrition among such vulnerable patients. Additionally, it has been suggested that both food insecurity and drug abuse interfere with adherence to HIV medication in people living with HIV (PLWH). Based on a cross-sectional design and Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS), Wanjihia et al. [2] compared the demographical features of PWID group, control group (non-drug users) and group of former injectors on methadone treatment under the Opioid substitution therapy (OST) programme, each comprising of 165 subjects in order to assess the nutritional status and food insecurity individuals who inject illicit drugs (PWID) in Kenya. The results revealed that PWID were having comparatively lesser mean body mass index (BMI) with higher food insecurity score, indicating that PWID suffered from malnutrition and food insecurity and mostly involved in risky behaviour. About 62.5% of the respondents reportedly had increased appetite following induction of the methadone treatment. The study suggested the need for targeted food assistance, nutritional support and/or intervention. This issue is of significance in developing strategies for efficient and effective management of alcoholism and drug abuse by means of enhancing the nutritional status.

References

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