

Frequency & Complexity —Worse Outcome

Recent Scientific Articles on this Topic:

Substance abuse and drug-related death, suicidal ideation, and suicide: a review . Mino A, Bousquet A, Broers B, Crisis 1999;20(1):28-35

The high mortality rate among drug users, which is partly due to the HIV epidemic and partly due to drug-related accidental deaths and suicides, presents a major public health problem. Knowing more about prevalence, incidence, and risk factors is important for the development of rational preventive and therapeutic programs. This article attempts to give an overview of studies of the relations between substance abuse, suicidal ideation, suicide, and drug-related death. Research in this field is hampered by the absence of clear definitions, and results of studies are rarely comparable. There is, however, consensus about suicidal ideation being a risk factor for suicide attempts and suicide. Suicidal ideation is also a predictor of suicide, especially among drug users. It is correlated with an absence of family support, with the severity of the psychosocial dysfunctioning, and with multi-drug abuse, but also with requests for treatment. Every clinical examination of a drug user, not only of those who are depressed, should address the possible presence of suicidal ideation, as well as its intensity and duration.

The course, treatment, and outcome of substance disorder in persons with severe mental illness. Drake RE, Mueser KT, Clark RE, Wallach MA, Am J Orthopsychiatry 1996 Jan;66(1):42-51

Individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and severe mental illness are particularly vulnerable to negative outcomes. This paper reviews findings on the longitudinal course of dual disorders in traditional treatment systems, which provide separate mental health and substance-abuse programs; describes the movement toward programs that integrate

both types of treatment at the clinical level; reviews evidence related to outcomes in integrated treatment programs; and discusses health-care policy changes that would encourage effective treatments.

Substance abuse prognosis with an additional psychiatric diagnosis: understanding the relationship. Stoffelmayr BE, Benishek LA, Humphreys K, Lee JA, Mavis BE, J
Psychoactive Drugs 1989 Apr-Jun;21(2):145-52

Patients with alcohol and other substance abuse problems have poorer prognoses if there is a concomitant psychiatric diagnosis. However, because severity of psychiatric problems contributes more than the specific psychiatric diagnosis to prognosis, the nature of the interaction between substance abuse treatment outcome and an accompanying psychiatric diagnosis can be questioned. In this article an attempt is made to understand the poor-prognosis-with-psychiatric-diagnosis interaction through a literature review and an analysis of various problem areas that clients bring to substance abuse treatment. Problem areas were measured with a variety of instruments. The results show that groups that vary in severity of psychiatric problems also differ in severity of problems in other areas. As there is no doubt that such dual diagnosis patients pose a considerable treatment challenge, the implications of these findings for theoretical consideration and treatment planning are discussed.