

DIFFERENCE IN THE DEGREE OF NICOTINE DEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEPRESSION BETWEEN CANNABIS USERS AND POLIDRUG USERS

Russo Giuseppina A.¹, Garuana Anna², Mannucci Carmen¹, Tedesco Michele¹, Calapai Gioacchino¹

¹Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine and Pharmacology, Section of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Messina, Italy

²Territorial Service for Addiction (Ser.T.) of the District of Ribera – Local Sanitary Unit USL n°1, Agrigento (Italy)

An observational epidemiological research into the Territorial Service for Addiction (Ser.T.) of the District of Ribera – Local Sanitary Unit USL n°1, Agrigento (Italy), in collaboration with the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine and Pharmacology, Section of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Messina, was carried out with the aim to put on evidence possible differences and/or correlation in the degree of nicotine dependence in subjects attending the Territorial Service for Addiction (Ser.T.) of the District of Ribera. Subjects were divided in two sub-groups: Group A = “drugs addicted” to tobacco and cannabis and Group B = “drugs addicted” to tobacco and multiple drugs of abuse.

A further aim of the study was to investigate the possible co-existence in the two groups of depressive signs in comparison with a third Group (C) represented by non-addicted subjects.

The recruited sample was composed by 64 drugs addicted, subdivided for typology, variety, quantity of substance used by two sub-groups:

- Group A: 24 tobacco and cannabis smokers
- Group B: 40 tobacco smokers addicted to multiple drugs of abuse.

Non-addicted (Group C) were 30 subjects. To all the subjects, were administered the following tests: Fagerstrom test, Severity Dependence Scale (SDS) and Hamilton-D Scale.

Tobacco smokers addicted to multiple drugs of abuse (Group A) showed an higher score than Group B to the Tests of Fagerstrom and an higher score than Group B and C to the Test Hamilton, thus indicating a stronger degree of dependence and a tendency to the development of depression. In conclusion our data indicate that smokers addicted to multiple drugs of abuse develop a stronger dependence and confirm the relationship between smoking and depression.