

Sexwork and transactional sex in chemsex: results of an anonymous online study [Abstract]

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and a significant risk of AUD. Approximately 18% to 25% of patients meet the criteria for AUD, with men being more commonly affected. The clinical case describes a 56-year-old man with family history of AUD, who developed chronic pain after a work accident resulting in multiple trauma. The patient began consuming alcohol daily for pain relief, which escalated to an AUD diagnosis and worsened pain due to alcohol-induced hyperalgesia.

Conclusions: Alcohol use is prevalent among chronic pain patients, often as a form of self-medication. However, this practice is frequently counterproductive, as increased consumption to counteract tolerance can lead to serious complications, including hyperalgesia, psychiatric disorders, and significant difficulties in managing both pain and alcohol use disorder (AUD). The clinical case highlights these issues and reinforces the need for a multidisciplinary approach that addresses both pain management and alcohol dependence.

Early detection of problematic alcohol use is essential to prevent the development of AUD. A comprehensive treatment plan, incorporating strategies for pain control and addiction management, is crucial for improving the overall health and well-being of patients dealing with chronic pain.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0043

Hellenic National Observatory for Internet and Gaming Addiction

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Introduction: The Greek National Observatory for Internet and Gaming Addiction (NOIAD) is a state-sponsored organization that will be setup in the University of Thessaly during this year following its inclusion in the Greek National Health Plan for Mental Health 2021-2030.

Objectives: In this presentation of the setup and goals of NOIAD, a case will be brought forward for scientific collaboration across the European continent that could culminate in similar centers in different countries.

Methods: The main publication that NOIAD intends to produce annually will have the role of a national report or at least an update of the national situation. In addition to this report, the observatory is expected to prepare a number of studies or reports on individual problems or in response to questions from state institutions (eg Parliament, ministries). Implementation of an online platform (portal) of specialized but also popular knowledge that will aim to inform health professionals and the general population (parents, pupils/students, adults with an addiction problem) with different information profiles for each population. Information lectures, educational activities for minor students, organization of an annual interdisciplinary conference.

Results: NOIAD's principal goal is the planning and implementation of actions to address digital addictions through the collection of objective, reliable and valid information about the state of Internet and Gaming addiction prevalence and related research and clinical practice in Greece. NOIAD will provide a state-of-the-nation annual report and disseminate the relevant information and

conclusions to health professionals, government bodies and the wider population. Furthermore, NOIAD will plan and provide local preventative actions in the wider area of Thessaly, especially regarding the high-school and university student population; these actions will serve as blueprints for similar activities across Greece.

Conclusions: Setting up a national center to provide with a complete picture of Internet Addiction and Gaming Disorder, pool together research output and coordinate preventative actions will assist with a fragmented research landscape and make better use of limited resources.

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EPV0045

Sexwork and transactional sex in chemsex: results of an anonymous online study

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Introduction: Sex work and transactional sex (SWTS), along with Chemsex, are linked to high-risk sexual behaviors and poorer health outcomes. Chemsex is the use of methamphetamine, GHB/GBL and mephedrone in a sexual context especially among men who have sex with men (MSM). Transactional sex (TS) is the exchange of sexual services for other services or things in a non professional way. Sex-work (SW) means having sex with people in exchange for money in a professional way.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to determine the prevalence rates of sex work and transactional sex (SWTS) among chemsex users and to answer the question of whether the combination of the two leads to an increased risk profile of those affected in terms of sexual health.

Methods: To achieve this, we conducted an online survey across three European German-speaking countries, targeting MSM. The survey gathered data on participants' substance use patterns, sexual behaviors, and health outcomes, with a particular focus on their engagement in SWTS. SWTS was defined as the exchange of sexual favors for money, drugs, or other material goods, which has been shown to be associated with higher risk behaviors, including unprotected sex and multiple sexual partners.

Results: A total of 399 sexually active MSM were included, categorized into three sub-groups: 129 engaging in Chemsex (MSM-CX), 128 in sexualized substance use with non-Chemsex substances (MSM-SSU), and 142 not engaging in sexualized substance use (MSM-NSU). MSM-CX reported significantly higher rates of SWTS compared to both MSM-SSU ($p=.032$) and MSM-NSU ($p<.001$), indicating that Chemsex use is strongly linked to transactional sex. Both Chemsex and SWTS were associated with higher HIV ($p<.001$, $p=.042$) and STI ($p<.001$, $p=.023$) prevalence, but no cumulative effect was found. Among MSM-CX engaging in SWTS, participants were younger ($p=.006$), had more sexual partners ($p=.029$), and reported higher substance use, including methamphetamine, mephedrone, and GHB/GBL. These factors may contribute to the increased vulnerability to HIV and STIs.

Conclusions: The results highlight the need for targeted prevention and intervention measures addressing the risks of Chemsex and SWTS among MSM. Public health campaigns should consider the socio-behavioral traits of Chemsex users, such as their younger age, higher number of sexual partners, and frequent substance use. These efforts should also reduce stigma, encourage help-seeking, and promote safer sex practices. Prevention should focus on regular HIV/STI testing and accessible harm reduction strategies. In conclusion, this study underscores the importance of tailored, evidence-based interventions to improve health outcomes for MSM-CX engaging in Chemsex and SWTS.

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EPV0047

Behind the Screens : Exploring the phenomenon of Binge-Watching behaviour among Tunisian Adolescents

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Introduction: In recent years, the rise of streaming platforms has given adolescents unprecedented access to vast libraries of series and films, often leading to hours of continuous viewing, a phenomenon known as binge watching. This emerging trend is reshaping how adolescents engage with media, often affecting their social behaviors, routines, and overall well-being. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing preventive interventions.

Objectives: This study aims to explore binge-watching behavior among Tunisian adolescents and the key factors influencing this trend.

Methods: We conducted a descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study among Tunisian adolescents aged between 12 to 18 years old. Data were collected using an online questionnaire spread throughout social media (Facebook), using the Google Forms® platform in September 2024. We evaluated the epidemiological and social characteristics of the participants, as well as the binge watching behaviour, using Binge-Watching Addiction Questionnaire (BWAQ).

Results: Eighty-two adolescents participated in our study, with a mean age of 16.02 ± 1.65 years and a sex ratio of 0.82. Our results showed that 86.5% of our population lived in urban areas, 13.4% in rural areas, and 18.3% did not live with both parents. Our results showed that 15.9% of our population reported low grades, 23.2% had repeated a grade, and 27.7% had issues with teachers or administration. Additionally, 21.5% had experienced bullying, 30.5% faced domestic violence, and 31.7% reported conflicts with parents. Regarding binge-watching, 41.5% of participants engaged in it more than once per week, 43.1% spent over two hours daily on school days, and 29.3% watched more than five episodes in one sitting. The most preferred content included drama series (56.1%), movies (24.4%), and sports shows (19.6%). The mean score on the Binge-Watching Addiction Questionnaire (BWAQ) was 39.43, with 27.7% showing moderate and 7.7% showing highly problematic binge-watching, with no sex difference. Highly problematic binge-watching was significantly associated with conflicts with

parents ($p = 0.01$), peers ($p = 0.02$), school staff ($p = 0.42$), and poor academic performance, including grade repetition ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: These results highlight the potential negative impact of excessive media consumption on adolescents' social interactions and academic performance, underscoring the need to implement targeted interventions that not only raise awareness about the risks of excessive media consumption but also provide practical strategies to help adolescents manage their screen time.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0049

Research of personality anxiety and anxiety disorders in patients receiving opioid agonist maintenance therapy (OAMT)

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Introduction: Increased levels of anxiety in patients with opioid dependence is a common problem that requires a comprehensive approach to treatment. They can manifest as GAD, panic attacks, social anxiety, and other forms of anxiety. The level of personal distress in patients on methadone therapy can be significant, as these patients often face a complex of psychological and social problems related to addiction and treatment.

Objectives: The causes of anxiety disorders can be: 1) biological factors - changes in the neurochemistry of the brain associated with the use of opioids, which can affect the regulation of emotions and cause anxiety; 2) psychological factors – trauma in the anamnesis, stressful situations or negative experiences can contribute to the development of anxiety disorders; 3) social factors – relationship problems, social isolation and economic hardship can increase anxiety. Factors affecting the level of personal anxiety include both medical and social aspects - a) changes in life; b) concomitant mental disorders; c) attitude toward therapy; d) social support.

Methods: In the course of the study, 150 patients aged 26 to 64 years with a diagnosis of opioid dependence, who receive methadone hydrochloride as OAMT, were examined. The Psychopathological Symptom Severity Questionnaire (SCL-90-R, Derogatis, Lipman, Covi) and the Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A/HARS) were used to assess the level of personal anxiety and existing anxiety disorders.

Results: According to the levels of interpersonal anxiety (very low, low, medium, high), the indicators were distributed as follows: in the control group - 10 (20.4%), 32 (65.3%), 7 (14.3%), 0 (0.0%); in the main group - 28 (27.7%), 59 (58.4%), 13 (12.9%), 1 (1.0%), respectively ($p=0.685$).

The degree of clinical anxiety according to the Hamilton scale (mild, moderate, severe, strong) in the main group was distributed as follows: 60 (59.41%), 23 (22.77%), 15 (14.85%) and 3 (2.97%); in the control group - 31 (63.27%), 10 (20.41%), 6 (12.24%), 2 (4.08%), respectively ($p=0.930$).

The level of anxiety according to the SCL-90 scale (very low, low, medium, elevated, high) was determined in 19 (38.78%), 22 (44.90%), 6 (12.24%), 2 (4.08%) and 0 (0.00 %) of persons, respectively, in the control group; 39 (38.61%), 46 (45.54%), 15 (14.85%), 1 (0.99%) and 0 (0.00%) - in the primary ($p=0.628$).