

Drug addiction represents the dependence on an illegal drug. Giving a false image of pleasure, it belongs to the group of toxicomanias, i.e. addiction diseases, beside alcoholism, nicotinism and polytoxicomania.

Although all addiction diseases are dangerous and maleficent for individuals, family and general community welfare, drug addiction is the worst and the most difficult type of addiction.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY
CLINIC FOR PSYCHIATRY



Military insured and patients with civilian health insurance coverage and GP's referral can seek an appointment scheduled via the Appointment Lines, every day from 07.30 a.m. to 03.30 p.m.

All citizens with civilian health insurance coverage who use the MMA service at their request are able to schedule the appointment Monday through Thursday, from 03.30 p.m. to 07.30 p.m.

Warning signs of drug abuse:

Neglecting work habits,

Drop in attendance and performance at work or school,

Lack of motivation,

Sudden mood swings from euphoria through nerve and depression, ending with aggressive or suicide behavior

Sudden change in friends,

Deterioration of physical appearance, personal grooming habits,

Changes in biorhythm and sleep patterns,

Sudden weight loss.

APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING /
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ADDICTION
DISEASES
DRUG ADDICTION



The term "addiction" gets more precise meaning having in mind its basic characteristics, such as irresistible impulse for use, inclination to use it in larger amount, physiological and psychological dependence. Psychological dependence is defined as a "need" for particular substance use because it causes enjoyable mental affects or emotions. Physiological dependence changes a physiological condition of organism thus resulting in biochemical process changes due to the drug use.

Human been always seeks to surpass the reality, to live in a world of dreams, to win the pain and find the elixir of eternal youth. Escaping from reality is usually the characteristic of young people because in the adolescence period they intend to experiment, with no limitations to risky behavior, expressing curiosity while having too much free time. They also need to escape from problems, to grow up during the night.

Important risk factors for drug addiction have emotively instable personalities with low self-esteem, poor social skills and early contact with one of the drugs. The other factors which should not be neglected are its presence and availability associated with social factors including migrations, disturbed value system with the special emphasis on moral degradation, significantly increased criminal, disturbed family relations (especially in the time of war), control lost over the children. More of these factors occur, bigger possibility to succumb drug addiction.

A categorization in hard and soft drugs, measured by addictiveness and the potential for physical harm has been considered as controversial.

-List of soft toxicomanias includes excessive use of coffee, tea, tobacco, ether, drugs, glue and petrol.

-Opiomania (opioids and its products addiction), cannabis (hashish and marijuana), cocaineomania, alcoholism and LSD, amphetamines, ecstasy are considered hard toxicomanias.

At the start, young people begin to take pain medications or tranquilizers, to continue further with combining drugs and alcohol, substances with low heat of vaporization, to easily change it with marijuana, the most common illicit drug. Consideration of marijuana as one of the soft drugs is the consequence of fallacy people have due to flexible attitude and unconscious dangers. Marijuana is associated with increased risk of progressing to more powerful and dangerous drugs such as heroin, usually from six months to one year.

Unknowingly caught, person easily accepts the world of drugs, as a receipt for pleasure and solution for problems. Feelings of pleasure, heaven, excitation, relaxation are very quickly replaced with their opposites, anxiety, depression, weakness, along with physical pains, fever, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, digestive problems. To ease these symptoms, person continues to take a drug thus entering in "vicious circle of drug dependency", difficult to leave.

Drug addict experiences evident changes in personality characterizing him/her as another person. Concerning that drug supply becomes the priority, it may engage him/her in suspicious behavior to borrow, steal or cheat to get it. He/she may also act aggressively and promiscuously with no sentiments of responsibility, obligation, conscience, guilty or pride. Consequently, drug addict sinks into the world of seriously disturb moral norms.

Although the number of persons with drug dependence continuously increases, only a small number of them decide to pursue the treatment. Long treatment process includes short withdrawal (detoxification) as the easiest phase followed by difficult work with medical professionals and mutual support of family members and social community. The hardest thing is to incite the motivation for treatment, giving him/her the hope and establish honesty and confidence in the relation drug addict-doctor. However, during the longest and the most difficult phase of treatment i.e. period of rehabilitation and resocialization, society demonstrates the inability to treat formal drug addict as its full member and assure him/her existence which could positively contribute to decrease recidivism cases. Amounts of money for treating drug addiction are extremely large, but the most expensive thing is our ignorance, closing the eyes to problem and disinterest for the closest ones.