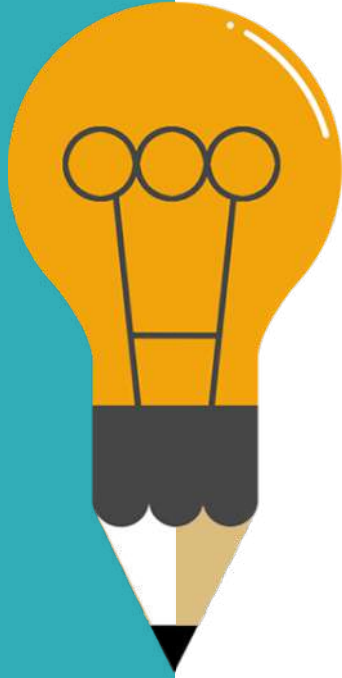


Psychostimulant drug abuse and personality factors in medical students

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Agenda Style



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Explain purpose of the discussion

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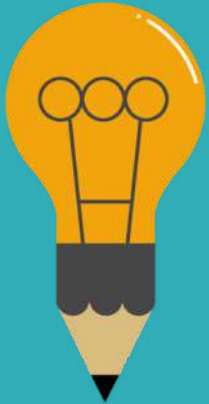


Introduction

Psychostimulant medications, such as Dextroamphetamine or Adderall drugs have a market for illicit use, most commonly by college students ,generally justify this abuse in order to enhance academic prowess. as it helps them to study for hours without requiring a break, it can lead to imbalances in exam this may create a dangerous situation as increased risk of co-morbid mood disorders, as result these medications have been listed as controlled substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)



Psychostimulant drug abuse is associated with higher scores on aggressive and hostile personality traits as well as impulsive seeking behavior. Furthermore, drug abuse, regardless of the reason, is a sign of poor professionalism. It is illegal in many countries around the world, and often carries high penalties including jail time and fines .



Methods

The investigators prepared survey which was administered on-line to all students attending a single medical school, asked whether they had used psychostimulant medications (e.g., Adderal l, Ritalin, Dextroamphetamine, and methamphetamine) for medical or non-medical purposes.

Students who reported using psychostimulant medications for a medical purpose prescribed by a physician were excluded from the study.

In addition to soliciting demographic questions, included in the survey were the Jefferson Scale of Empathy

JSE instrument was developed to specifically measure empathic orientation, attitudes, or behavior in the context of patient care.

Extensive evidence has been published in support of the validity and reliability of this instrument in all medical care

Also, The Zuckerman–Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire – short form (ZKPQ-S). There are five personality scales in this questionnaire:

- 1- Impulsive Sensation Seeking
- 2- Neuroticism–Anxiety
- 3- Aggression–Hostility
- 4- Sociability
- 5- Activity

We used correlational and analysis of variance methods for statistical analyses of data. Computer software of Statistical Analysis System, version 9.1 for Windows, was used for analysis

The Results

The remainder of respondents (n = 321, 173 women, 148 men) was included in this study the total number of students in the 2010–2011 academic year, the year the study was performed, was 1035 the response rate was 31% (321/1035)

	Men (n=148)	Percent %	Woman (n=173)	Percent %	Total (n=321)	Percent %
Abused drug before medical school	18	12	19	11	37	12
Abused drug during medical school	7	5	7	4	14	4
Abused drug to help learning	13	9	19	10	32	10

Discussion

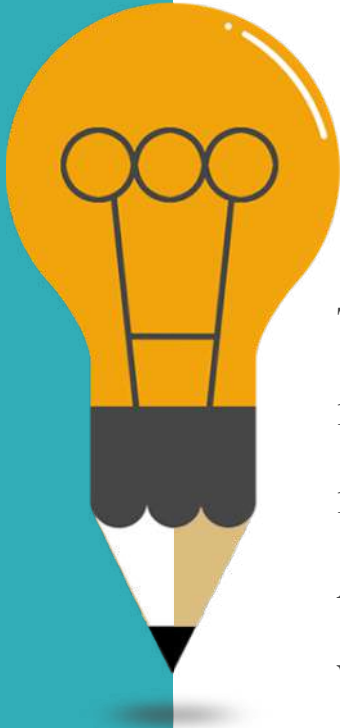
- ❑ *purpose of the discussion:* Explaining the meaning of the results to the reader
- finding in our sample 14% of medical students have abused psychostimulant drugs for non-medical reasons.
- in (2005) noted by McCabe the college students that abused stimulant medications were likely to also abuse other substances, such as cocaine and ecstasy.
- an Iranian study noted that almost 10% of their sample population had also abused stimulants in order to increase concentration and enhance studying ability.
- a study by Watkins (1970) that at a southern medical school, over 50% of the respondents had abused psychostimulant medications at some point.

Discussion

- In a study reported by Teter et al (2010), 58% of participants cited a need for increased concentration and 43% needed an increase in alertness

The study also showed there was no statistically significant difference in responses between men and women regarding justification for abusing prescription stimulants (Teter et al. 2010).

Also, data were obtained via an on-line survey posted on the Internet, which like all self-report surveys, can be subject to social desirability responses.



Conclusion

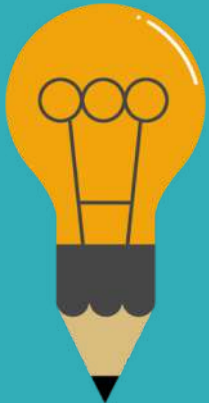
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References

Bucher, J. T., Vu, D. M. and Hojat, M. (2013) 'Psychostimulant drug abuse and personality factors in medical students', *Medical Teacher*, 35(1), pp. 1–5.

THANKS