PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPIOID ADDICTION

145 patients with opioid addiction were studied for prognostic factors influencing formation and development of medical and social consequences of opioid addiction. The examined patients had drug abuse duration from 1 year to 15 years. Analysis of studies showed that the most significant adverse prognostic factors, determining formation rate of medical and social consequences in opioid addiction, may include: perinatal pathology, personality deviation in the premorbid; early onset of drug abusing; hereditary addiction to drug and mental illness; condition of upbringing; alcohol abuse experience prior to narcotization; drug addiction duration.

Keywords: Opioid addiction, prognostic factors of the formation.

Introduction

The problem of opioid addiction in recent years has become particularly acute due to the increased proportion of patients, especially young people, social impacts and weighting the high narcogen action of opiates. One of the key issues to ensure correct diagnosis and approach to policy-making and treatment strategies is a correct understanding of the role of premorbid factors and changes in personality of patients and their importance in the formation of pathological attraction and further development of the disease. In the literature of social and medical consequences of various types of addictions, where the low level of labor employment, a high frequency of criminogenic behavior, frequent violations of family relations, indicates a high mortality. Studies have shown that narcotization alters the social orientation of the personality - at the expense of a process of social and labor dysadaptation. With long-term course of addiction, it is set the irreversibility of the defect of personality, which is especially pronounced for chronic process. Prolonged use of narcotic substances erases compensatory abilities of the body, making them virtually unable to work, up to disability.

In this research, we set a goal to discuss the prognostic factors of the formation of opioid addiction and their medical and social consequences.

Material and methods

145 patients with opioid dependence and proceeding in-patient treatment were studied using clinical and psychopathological methods with specially designed survey card. All patients were men aged 18 to 42 years. Majority of patients (79.8%) at the time of the study was of most active age - between 20 to 39 years. The duration of narcotization in the studied patients was from 1 year to 15 years. 70.5% of patients had disease duration over 5 years, including 47.4% - over 10 years. A significant portion of patients (63.3%) began using drugs at a young age - 20 years, including 24% - in adolescence to 16 years.

Results and discussion

According to our research, in significant number of patients (91.25%) the heredity was burdened by mental illness or (mostly) alcohol: on the paternal line - in 80% of cases, on the maternal line - in 12.2% of cases. The presence of hereditary aggravation, especially mental illness, was an adverse prognostic factor in terms of frequency and severity of primarily medical, but also some of the social consequences of the disease. In the analysis of the role of heredity the patients were divided into two groups: without hereditary
addiction (first group) and with presence of hereditary addiction to alcohol, drug abuse and other mental illnesses (second group). People, the heredity which was burdened, the most frequently had psychopathic personality changes (30.8%), severe forms of moral and ethical and intellectual-mnestic reduction. They, more likely than patients without hereditary addiction, revealed suicidal tendencies; had more pronounced violation of ability to work; and they had the greatest frequency of offenses.

Perinatal pathology was identified in a large number of cases: pregnancy pathology in the mother - 68 (85.1%), pathology in birth - 32 (40.2%), in early postnatal period - 51 (64%). All patients had the pathology occurred in late postnatal period (increase in the thymus, emotional-respiratory crises, irritability, tearfulness, moodiness, sleep disturbances, indigestion, motor restlessness, wining, retarded physical development).

As a result of perinatal pathology the organically inferior ground emerged, which in the dynamics of drug addiction contributed to the further rise of the different personality distortions. In these patients significantly more often than in those with normal premorbid and more quickly there were formed personality changes typical to drug addicts, including such severe forms as psychopathic personality disorders and degradation with a strong moral and ethical decline, a violation of disability and family relationships. Patients in premorbid period suffered from various somatic diseases: childhood infections (80% of patients), traumatic brain injuries (31%), pulmonary diseases (22.5%), surgical diseases (18.8%), rare - diseases of the gastrointestinal tract (12.5%), enuresis (15%). Other somatic disease occurred in isolated cases.

Analysis of a nurturing environment showed that the majority of patients grown up in two-parent families - 64 people (80%). Only 20% of patients were raised in single-parent families, including 5% - in the absence of both parents. It should be noted that in cases where the family was complete, the parents did not always pay due attention to children. Their development to a greater extent had been influenced by informal micro groups. Hypoprotection was noted in 57 patients (71.3%). Along with this, there was a small group of patients with parental hypoprotection - 11 people (13.7%). The mothers of these children refused to work or strived to find such work which allowed being closer to home. At the same time, they were not interested enough with the inside interests of children; parents generally concerned with nourishing and dressing of their children. Very early these children became burdened with overprotection, wished to spend more time on the street, where their interests and hobbies formed and developed. The emancipation reaction in period of adolescence puberty was noted in 35% of the observed patients, the reaction of grouping with their peers - in 58.8% of cases. 12 patients in childhood had contradictory, multidirectional upbringing (15%). Living in a single-parent family served as unfavorable factor leading to formation of such severe consequences of drug abuse as personality degradation, lowering of the moral and ethical values, and frequent offenses, poor prognostic factor was brought up in.

Signs of the moral and ethical decline were identified in 75 patients (93.8%). Patients put priority on their own interests, cared only about themselves; they often resorted to lie in order to avoid inconveniences and reach their aims; when communicating with others they sought to impress, often demonstrated pretentious self-confidence.

Social status of patients was as follows: 27.6% of them at the time of the study were neither working nor studying; 27.5% were engaged in commerce. 97.5% of patients in the dynamics of the disease reduced the professional level. Employed patients had repeated violations of work discipline. Thus, despite the fact that only a small portion of patients was employed, their working activities were inadequate - with frequent violations of labor discipline, continuous reduction of professional capacity, weakening of professional skills, difficulties in performing the work.

Marital status of surveyed characterized as follows: 43.8% of patients were never married; 26.3% were married, 3.8% were divorced. In 91.3% of cases there were observed violations of family relationships - frequent conflicts, quarrels, sexual promiscuity,
indifferent attitude towards children and family, neglect of family, consumer attitude towards them.

Patients had personality deviations of different intensity in premorbid period. Accentuation of personality was characteristic to 71.57% of cases (73 patients); in 8 cases (7.84%) it reached the psychopathic depth (personality disorder ICD-10 F60). Accentuated personalities often revealed mild moral and ethical decline in the disease process; deeper distortion was noted in case of psychopathic personalities. Pronounced anxiety tension, irritability, and mood lability were often characteristic to psychopathic personalities.

A considerable number of patients before puberty were observed with neurotic disorders in the form of night fears - 31 people (21.38%). 32 patients (22.07%) had in their anamnesis the precarious, pathologically developing puberty period; mental trauma occurred in 22 people (15.17%). More than half (68.62%) of patients had instability of interest, low interest in learning and difficulties in mastering the curriculum, absenteeism. Patients gave preference to leisure in 67 cases (46.21%), disco - 48 (33.1%), and linking to yard companies - 59 (40.69%). All this factors conditioned violations in behavior. Delinquent behavior in adolescence was found in 38% of persons; deviance - in 43% of patients; addictive behavior manifested in searching for “new” feelings (sniffing glue, organic solvents, smoking, occasional alcoholic excesses) – in 41% of patients.

Personality deviations in the premorbid period did not demonstrate influence on the severity of intellectual-mental disorders. The frequency of suicidal tendencies (48.8%) and demonstrative self-injuring (27.5%) also did not reveal dependence on the severity of deviations in the premorbid personality. Premorbid abnormalities were more common in single-parent families; and in the future these patients when creating their family had violations of family relationships or they did not strive to build a family. The frequency of offenses had a tendency to increase in patients with baseline psychopathology compared with accentuated personalities, but these differences were not statistically significant.

A significant number of patients - 28 people (35%) - prior to narcotization had alcohol abusing. Alcohol abuse prior to narcotization is a significant factor for the disease in the psychopathic personality changes, and moral and ethical decline. Persons experiencing alcohol abuse were more inclined to suicide attempts; they had more manifested violations of work ability and difficulties in family relationships.

We have observed the influence of early onset of drug abuse on the formation of health and social consequences of drug addiction. A comparison of the different ages of initiation of patients on the frequency and severity of health and social consequences of the disease showed that early onset of drug abusing contributes to a more pronounced and severe health and social consequences. This factor significantly influenced the development of personality changes, including such severe forms as psychopathic personality change and degradation with significant moral and ethical decline, intellectual and mental disorders, impaired work and family relationships. A clear correlation between age of drug abuse onset and frequency of suicidal tendencies, including suicide attempts, was not identified.

**Conclusion**

Thus, analysis showed that the most significant adverse prognostic factors influencing on speed of developing of medical and social consequences of opioid addiction include: perinatal pathology, personality deviation in the premorbid; early onset of drug abusing; hereditary addiction to drug and mental diseases, condition of upbringing, alcohol abuse prior to narcotization, drug addiction duration. These constitutionally-biological factors are informative indicators for predicting the formation of opioid dependence.