

APPLICATION OF A SELF-COMPLETED SCALE (OCDS) FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF THE COMPULSIVE - OBSESSIVE ALCOHOL INTAKE (CRAVING) TO A GREEK POPULATION OF CHRONIC ALCOHOLICS

Moussas G., Dadouti G., Xixi F., Tselebis A.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to present a new questionnaire which quantifies the obsessive and compulsive characteristics of drinking related thoughts and behaviour, in patients with alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence problems. It has been suggested that the main dimensions of alcohol "craving" include the concept of both obsessive thoughts about alcohol use and compulsive behaviours toward drinking. The questionnaire Obsessive Compulsive Drinking Scale (OCDS) provides 14 items and two subscales scores that measure the obsessive and compulsive aspects of alcohol "Craving".

Methods: In the study participated 100 patients (79 men, 21 women) who satisfy DSM-IV criteria for alcohol dependence and 81 individuals (52 men, 29 women) normal controls. The data were analysed by SPSS.

Results: The mean craving scores found in alcoholics had a highly significant correlation compared to that in the control population in the total score of the scale as in the two subscales ($p < 0,001$). The reliability of the scale was very high (Cronbach's alpha: 0,98) and the average inter-item correlation was 0,83.

Conclusion: The results showed that the OCDS scale is a sensitive and specific instrument in measuring the "craving" for alcohol intake in dependent alcoholics. The scale measures the obsessive and compulsive aspects of dependence. The utility of the scale is its use as a tool in measuring the severity and improvement during alcoholism treatment trials. The scale is not suitable for use in patients who do not abuse alcohol.

Key words: craving, alcoholism, obsessive, compulsive, scale.

Βιβλιογραφία

1. Jerome D. Levin. Treatment of alcoholism and others addictions. A self psychology approach. 1991.
2. Volpicelli JR, Alterman AI, Hayashida M, O'Brien CP. Naltrexone in the Treatment of Alcohol Dependence. Arch Gen Psychiatry 1992;49:876-80.
3. Anton RF, Moak DH, Latham P. The Obsessive Compulsive Drinking Scale: A Self-Rated Instrument for the Quantification of Thoughts about Alcohol and Drinkings Behavior. Alcohol Clin Exp Res 1995;19(1):92-9.
4. Anton RF, Moak DH, Latham P. The Obsessive Compulsive Drinking Scale: A New Method of Assessing Outcome in Alcoholism Treatment Studies. Arch Gen Psychiatry 1996;53:225-32.
5. Model JG, Glaser FB, Cyr L, Mountz JM. Obsessive and Compulsive Characteristics of Craving for Alcohol in Alcohol Abuse and Dependence. Alcohol Clin Exp Res 1992;16(2):272-4.
6. Edwards G, Gross MM. Alcohol dependence: provisional description of a clinical syndrome. BMJ 1976;1:1058-61.
7. Ludwig AM, Stark LH. Alcohol craving. Subjective and situation aspects. Q J Study Alcohol 1974;35:899-905.
8. O'Connor PG, Gottlieb LD, Kraus MI, Segal SR, Horwitz RI. Social and clinical features as predictors of outcome in outpatient alcohol withdrawal. J Gen Intern Med 1991;6:312-6.
9. Π.Ο.Υ. 1995.
10. Forrest G. Gary. Intensive psychotherapy of alcoholism. Chapter 1: The psychopathology of alcoholism. Jason Aronson INC. Northvale, New Jersey London 1994.
11. Τζός Μακ Ντούγκαλ. Τα χίλια και ένα πρόσωπα του έρωτα. Εκδόσεις Νεφέλη. Αθήνα 2001.
12. Franken IHA. Drug Craving and Addiction: integrating psychological and neuropsychopharmacological approaches. Neuro Psychopathol & Biol Psych 2003;27:563-79.
13. Wise RA. The neurobiology of craving: implications for the understanding and treatment of addiction. J Abnorm Psychol. May 1998; 97(2):118-32.
14. Verheul R, van den Brink, Geerlings P. A three pathway psychological model of craving for alcohol. Alcohol Alcohol Mar-Apr 1999; 34(2):197-222.

Αθήνα 2006

Μουσσάς Γ.Ι.

Ψυχιατρικός Τομέας Γενικού Νοσοκομείου «ΣΩΤΗΡΙΑ»
Μεσογείων 152 Τ.Κ. 115 27
Τηλ. 210-7709424 6944-431690 Fax. 210-7709424