

Relationship between Schizophrenia and Drug Abuse

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How to cite this article:

Alisha Nayak. Relationship between Schizophrenia and Drug Abuse. RFP Ind Jr of Med Psy. 2023;6(2):65–66.

Abstract

Schizophrenia is a severe psychiatric disorder that affects 1% of population worldwide. Regarding specific substance tobacco, alcohols, cannabis & cocaine use disorders occur commonly in patients with schizophrenia. Importantly, this population is associated with violence, suicide and increased rate of hospitalization while the exact mechanism contributing to substance use in Schizophrenia are not known, a number of theories have been put forward to explain the basis of co-occurrence of these disorders.

Keywords: Hospitalization; Psychiatric disorder; Epigenetic changes; Vandalism.

INTRODUCTION

Schizophrenia is a syndrome consisting of group of symptoms like delusions, hallucinations, loss of interests, disorganized speech, decreased emotion, abolition and disorganized behavior.

Delusions: False belief that the patient might feel very strongly about, so much that they won't change their mind; even if give evidences against it.

Hallucinations: any kind of sensations that's not actually there; including visual also auditory sensations like hearing voices, schizophrenia also affects memory, learning & understanding. Tobacco use usually begins during adolescence, and this exposure is associated with increased risk for development of cocaine, marijuana, alcohol use in adulthood. However exposure to nicotine during adolescence may produce long term epigenetic changes that may increase susceptibility to initiation and continued use of tobacco & other substances.

Phases of Schizophrenia

1. Prodromal Phase
2. Active Phase
3. Residual Phase

Prodromal Phase

- Same symptoms as of withdrawal symptoms
- Similar to mental disorders like depression, anxiety.

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Received on: 23.05.2023 **Accepted on:** 30.06.2023

Active Phase

- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- Disorganized speech
- Disorganized behavior

Residual Phase

- Not able to concentrate
- Not able to understand
- Memory loss

Causes: The exact cause and mechanism of schizophrenia is still unknown.

- Most important factor is use of antipsychotic drugs that improve schizophrenia symptoms.
- Nor epinephrine, GABA, serotonin involved.
- Antipsychotic medications block dopamine levels in neurons.
- Environmental factors involved early exposure to refection, auto immune disorder

Rate of Occurrence

Males are at high risk of developing schizophrenia than female as there is no estrogen regulation of dopamine in males.

Myths about Schizophrenia Symptoms

Having schizophrenia does not mean that, a person is violent or dangerous. While the condition is chronic; it can be managed effectively with medication, therapy & support.

Treatment:

- "Prevention is better than cure"
- The treatment of schizophrenia is difficult
- But there are certain medications known as antipsychotics should be given.

Other Suggestions

- Avoid undue peer pressure
- Education and counseling

Drug Addictions

Physiological & psychological dependence on a substance/drug which is beyond one's voluntary control is referred as drug addiction.

Immediate adverse effects of drug addiction:

Reckless behavior, violence, vandalism in excess dose - coma, heart fails, death, cerebral hemorrhage.

Disease due to chronic alcohol intake:

Liver disease, pancreatitis, cancer, fatty liver, ulcers, low immunity, brain damage, osteoporosis, CVS disease.

Disease due to chronic tobacco intake:

Lung cancer, ectopic pregnancy, stroke, erectile dysfunction, cataract, diabetes type-II

CONCLUSION

Schizophrenia is a serious disorder that affects millions and millions of people. Without proper treatment, this could cause many relationships to crumble. People that have Schizophrenia often show signs. These signs are social withdrawal, loss of appetite, loss of hygiene, hallucinations. This is something that should not be taken lightly and if it gets worse, then the person should seek immediate medical attention to help them get through this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of this article would not have been possible without the support and affections of elders. My father, who has always supported me in this field, has helped me a lot in doing this job.

REFERENCE

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2. Article from national institute of health (.gov).