

Abstract:

Background: Despite most studies have long term and repeatedly confirmed that the prevalence of smoking among individuals treated with other primary addiction is two to four times higher than in the general population, most services do not provide some form of smoking cessation. Smoking cessation is not clearly grounded in these services. An important aspect for the integration and implementation of smoking cessation programs in addiction treatment services are opinions and attitudes of the workers themselves. These opinions and attitudes are very often ambivalent and perceived as controversial. Attitudes and opinions can determine the possibilities and limits of working with the smoking cessation during the treatment of other primary addictions.

Aims: The study has four research objectives that reflect the results of theoretical-critical analysis. To map the opinions and attitudes of employees of medium-term institutional treatment of addiction to the smoking cessation within the issue of other primary addiction. To find out whether workers in medium-term institutional treatment for addiction perceive smoking as less harmful than the use of other addictive substances. To determine whether workers in medium-term institutional treatment for addiction perceive smoking cessation as part of the treatment of another primary addiction. To find out whether the workers of medium-term institutional treatment of addiction perceive smoking cessation within the treatment of another primary addiction as a possible negative for the overall outcome of treatment.

Methods: The study was conducted as mix-method research design. In the quantitative part a standardized questionnaire is used. Standardized questionnaire was modified for the needs of this study. The first part maps the basic sociodemographic data. The second part consists of thirteen questions in three domains which examine the attitudes and opinions of workers on smoking cessation in the treatment of other primary addictions. The data from the questionnaire were analysed using descriptive statistics. In the qualitative part the method of semi-structured interviews was used. Interviews were analyzed by simple enumeration.

Sample: A total of 60 respondents were involved in the quantitative part. A total of 11 semi-structured interviews were conducted in the qualitative part of the study. In both parts of the research, the respondents were employees of medium-term institutional care of addiction from a selected institution.

Results: The results of the mix-method research design showed that attitudes and opinions towards smoking cessation were ambivalent. Smoking cessation is not perceived as a controversial topic. It is understood as a marginal topic due to which patients do not come for treatment. Smoking is perceived as more harmful in connection with damage to health. Overall, smoking is understood as an issue that does not affect patients as essential as the

primary addictive substance. To a greater extent, respondents agreed that smoking cessation is part of addiction treatment and patients should work with it. Respondents do not perceive smoking cessation negatively in relation to the overall outcome of treatment. researchers supported the view that it is better to let patients smoke.

Conclusions: On the part of employees the research showed that in the selected institution the smoking cessation is not a taboo topic and it is proactively worked with. The study shows great possibilities to implement and integrate a single smoking cessation program for all departments in the future. Among the fundamental limits are the ambivalent attitudes and opinions to smoking cessation of the respondents. In a selected institution, the study helped to discuss the implementation and integration of a smoking cessation program in the treatment of other primary addictions.

Keywords:

smoking – tobacco – counseling - treatment - residential treatment - alcohol addiction