

ABSTRACT:

Background: In the Czech Republic, an estimated 1.35 million personally report problematic use of psychoactive drugs (Mravčík et al., 2021). The most frequently abused psychoactive drugs are benzodiazepines, hypnotics, opioid analgesics and drugs with a stimulant effect. Misuse of psychoactive drugs can lead to addiction and to mental and somatic problems.

Aim: The aim of the thesis is to describe the patterns and circumstances of abuse of psychoactive drugs from the client's perspective. The thesis focuses on the first use of a psychoactive drug, the beginning and course of abuse and patterns of misuse of psychoactive drugs from the client's perspective.

Sample: The research sample consisted of two respondents who misused psychoactive drugs in the past.

Methods: A qualitative approach in the form of a case study with the use of a semi-structured interview was chosen for the creation of data. Subsequently, the data from the interviews were transcribed and analyzed using the coding method and the method of searching and capturing relationships.

Results: The respondents obtained psychoactive drugs through a circle of acquaintances, from doctors and on the black market. The circumstances of the respondents' first use were withdrawal symptoms from alcohol withdrawal and pain management after surgery. Circumstances of abuse of psychoactive drugs can be considered addiction to addictive substances and a certain form of self-medication of psychological problems. The first respondent was abusing and combining three benzodiazepine drugs. The second respondent abused and combined three different groups of psychoactive drugs – opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines and hypnotics.

Conclusion and recommendation: The prescribing of psychoactive drugs should be subject to greater scrutiny. It is important to focus on preventive measures such as education of medical personnel and education of patients and the general public. Treatment of addiction to psychoactive drugs requires a comprehensive approach.

Keys words: abuse of psychoactive drugs, prescription drugs, nonmedical use of psychoactive drug, circumstances of abuse