

## **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** Quality of life is defined by WHO as an individual perception of one's own position in life, taking into account cultural aspects of the society and a system of values in which the individual lives, as well as his/her goals, standard of living and interests. Because quality of life measure is strongly a subjective measure, it can only be assessed by the individual himself/herself. **AIMS:** The aim of this thesis was to compare of the quality of life of drug users before and after institutional treatment. **SAMPLE AND METHODS:** WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire was employed to collect the data. A research sample consisted of all clients (both men and women) in the institutional treatment at the department of treatment of dependencies at the Clinic of Addictology, The clients filled the questionnaire in before treatment entry or within the first week after treatment entry, and at the release from the treatment. **RESULTS:** None of the clients was very satisfied with his/her quality of life before treatment. After treatment, the quality of life was perceived as positive rather by women. After treatment, 44% of women found their quality of life good, whereas it was assessed as very good by 13% of women. The overall perception of the quality of life in the male population has not changed much. Regarding the respective WHOQOL-BREF domains, the smallest changes were perceived in the area of personal relationships and sexual life. 48% of clients were dissatisfied with their personal relationships – 50% of men and 47% of women, respectively. As well, there was a general discontent with sexual life before treatment (35%). Still, 19% of women assessed their sexual life as satisfactory before treatment and also after treatment. **CONCLUSIONS:** The survey showed that quality of life has slightly improved after institutional treatment. The smallest changes occurred in the area of personal relationships and sexual life, and in the area of financial well-being.

**Keywords:** drug users, institutional treatment, quality of life