

Does opioid maintenance treatment reduce attention bias to substance related stimuli in opioid depended patients?

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Objectives

Prior research indicates attentional bias to substance related stimuli in opioid depended subjects. Cognitive processes like attention bias to substance related cues are associated with relapse after treatment [1]. Compared to former heroin using subjects who are abstinent, attention bias is more distinct in subjects who currently use heroin [2]. Up to now, it remains unclear, if opioid maintenance therapy also reduces the attentional bias to substance related stimuli.

Design

Independent group design, three groups of opioid depended patient

1. Patients, who used heroin at least once in the last 30 days
2. Patients in opioid maintenance treatment without heroin and other substance use in the last 3 month
3. Patients in opioid maintenance treatment with current substance use

Measures

Attention bias for heroin related stimuli was measured computerized by a modified "Approach Avoidance Task" (AAT) [3]



heroin related stimuli



neutral stimuli

Additional measures

Interviews and screening questionnaires

Substance use → *EUROP-ASI-R* [4]
Depression → *Becks Depression Inventory (BDI)* [5]
Sleep quality → *Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Inventory (PSQI)* [6]
PTSD symptoms → *Primary Care PTSD Screener*

Neuropsychology assessment

Working memory → *Self-ordered Pointing Task (SOPT)* [7]
Strength of automatic associations → *Implicit Association Test (IAT)* [8]

Results

Data collection is still in process.



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