

Abstract:

Background: Cocaine is an addictive substance which was very popular during the First republic in higher society, although there was no historical tradition of its use. Interest in foreign culture, however, brought many phenomena to the Czechoslovak Republic, including drugs – hashish, morphine and cocaine.

Aim: The aim of this work is to chart cocaine abuse in the Czechoslovak Republic during the First republic and describe this period in the context of drug use.

Methods: I used content analysis of documents for data collection. The documents were categorized according to the years of their release. I used text documents, sound and video recordings. Text documents were most often historical newspaper articles published during the First republic, but also literature dealing with the relevant issues published in the later period. I also searched for sources from already published documents.

Results and conclusion: Cocaine was abused in the Czechoslovak Republic during the First republic abundantly. At first, it was promoted as a miracle cure for the treatment of morphineism and also for its local anesthetic effect. Before long, however, its dependency potential became apparent. Cocaine abuse often occurred in culture and also in higher society. Many famous First Republic actors and actresses fell into this passion. Legislation was very tolerant, so this phenomenon spread considerably outside of the cultural environment and came through many social strata.

Key words: cocaine, Czechoslovak Republic, cocaine abuse, The First Republic, cocaine history