Abstract

BASIS: Nowadays, ADHD is a frequently discussed topic thanks to its persisting form, which means that a person suffers from its symptoms even in his/her adult life and that they cause problems in many activities – especially if combined with drug abuse. In the Czech Republic this issue is currently being investigated to ascertain the success rate of therapies focused on individuals affected by ADHD, specifically taken care of in therapeutic communities. Clients are often unable to benefit from the treatment and finish it prematurely whilst worsening their addiction.

AIMS: The aim of this thesis is to find out if the symptoms of ADHD affecting a specific client were related to his drug addiction in adolescence and adulthood. Furthermore we will look into problems connected to ADHD that affect person’s life from the very beginning up to adulthood and how they influence its treatment.

METHODS: Information used was obtained through an interview focused on questions regarding his case history, especially symptoms emerging throughout subject’s life. The next method used to gather data was a work with already existing documents, namely a questionnaire called “Diagnostické interview o ADHD u dospělých” (DIVA).

RESULTS: The conclusion is that given problems probably led to drug abuse, which could be understood as a kind of “self-medication” that resulted in a long-time addiction including our client’s adulthood. ADHD symptoms kept causing him problems with attention, and thus with school results and acceptance in society, which was followed by drug abuse, troubles at job and inability to socialize properly. Addiction treatments have worked poorly so far and due to the presence of ADHD our client keeps interrupting them prematurely.

CONCLUSION: In the future we need to adjust conditions of the addiction treatment process to the needs of people affected by ADHD, so their benefit from it would be greater.

Key words: ADHD in childhood and adulthood, ADHD diagnosis, ADHD and addictive drugs abuse, problems caused by ADHD symptoms, ADHD and treatment efficiency.