

## **Abstract**

Pathological gambling brings serious impacts on an individual, his or her surroundings and the society in the areas of economics, intellectual, physical and social health. In the Czech Republic about 40,000 – 80,000 adults are threatened by pathological gambling, however the actual amount of treated adults is only about 2.5 - 5% of the total year estimate. The reason behind this number can be the fact that in the Czech Republic pathological gambling is treated together with substance addiction in most of the therapy centers.

In the beginning of the theoretical part the concept of ‘pathological gambling’ is defined and the prevalence and the number of treated patients with the diagnosis of pathological gambling is shown along with the availability of electronic gaming devices in the Czech Republic and abroad. Furthermore, etiological context, pathogenesis, and some diagnostic aspects of pathological gambling are described. The theoretical part further compares pathological gambling with substance addiction and the treatments of pathological gambling and introduces the treatments of other addictions in the healthcare system in the Czech Republic.

The goal of the empirical part of the thesis is to find out and describe different and similar features of patients with the diagnosis of pathological gambling and patients with the diagnosis of a different kind of addiction in terms of the clinical picture, needs, treatment approaches to the patients and also the attitudes, opinions and experiences of the patients with a conjoint treatment. Research focus is put on Czech population of patients with the diagnosis of pathological gambling and patients diagnosed with the substance addiction who are currently treated in the residential treatment centers. Improbability quota purposive sampling method through institutions is an ensemble of 21 respondents. Data was gathered via semi-structured interviews. Data analysis employed methods of cluster analysis and pattern recognition and embedded theories of contrasts and comparisons.

Research findings show that pathological gamblers represent minority in the conjoint treatment and perceive the patients with substance addictions as inferior to them, which is causing some difficulties in the treatment. More than a half of pathological gamblers would choose a specialized treatment. Patients with the diagnosis of substance addiction would choose conjoint treatment. The hot issue is the awareness of the possibilities of addictology treatment and the capacity of the treatment centers. The optimal model includes conjoint treatment with some specialized programs. The advantage is the possibility of complex specialized treatment for the pathological gamblers.

**Key words:** pathological gambling – addiction syndrome – conjoint inpatient treatment  
– needs – attitudes - experiences