

Abstract

Drug dependence is one of the most common psychiatric diagnosis besides with affective disorders and anxiety disorders. Drug abuse may entail many somatic and psychiatric comorbidities which complicate treatment and substantially worsen its prognosis. Although the main reason of keeping dependence behaviour are maladaptive behavioural patterns, on the cell level there are mainly pathophysiological processes in the central nervous system. Similarly, it can be supposed that centre of treatment lies in psychotherapy, nevertheless parallel medication may significantly reduce subjective difficulties connected with abstinence from drug, which are common reason from treatment terminating from the side of patient.

In the urgent addictology, or acute psychiatry it is possible to meet with situations, when psychotherapeutic techniques have only limited effectiveness. It is possible to use for example de-escalate approach with anxious patient that is intoxicated by cannabinoids or hallucinogens, but it has no efficacy in the case of life-threatening acute intoxication by anticholinergics, opioids or tranquillisers. Similarly, in the case of acute withdrawal syndrome after long abuse of drugs with strong physical dependence, such as alcohol or benzodiazepines may physician almost exclusively rely on pharmacotherapeutic interventions.

Aim of this work is to sum up and describe possible pharmacotherapeutic interventions in the treatment of addiction behaviour, acute intoxication and withdrawal syndrom. This work describes the most preferred medical procedures and mentions innovative ones which are usually presented mostly in foreign literature. Considering extent of text and generality of theme of this work, it can not be regarded as a comprehensive and fully sufficient source of information, there are however mentioned and critically analysed individual therapeutic approaches, their contraindications, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic, and these information are involved into neurophysiology context for better comprehension.

This paper has mainly character of research work and is focused on description of current therapeutic approaches in addictology, off-label medication and on new, perspective treatment interventions and pre-clinic studies, whose results may be in nearby future initial point for new pharmacotherapeutic approaches in the treatment of drug addictions.

Key words: pharmacotherapy, drug dependence, acute intoxication, withdrawal syndrome