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**Bc. Ondřej Sklenář**

**Závislost na jehle u injekčních uživatelů drog v ČR**

**Needle Fixation among injecting drug users in Czech Republic**

**Diplomová práce**

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## **Abstract of the thesis**

**Background:** The importance of injecting drug use and its frequency among Czech problem users of illegal drugs appears to be high. At the same time the risks associated with this method of application and the risk of transmission of infectious diseases and other health complications are described in numerous publications and it is a compelling reason why we should give more attention to the theme of needle fixation. Finally, complications during substitution therapy associated with the transition from injecting drugs to another method of substitution substances administration are also common. Author of the thesis therefore asked the question whether in relation to injecting drug use could play a role in creating a strong addiction and other facts besides therefore widely known arguments as the quickest and most effective method of administration of drugs to the human body thanks to the injection.

**The aim of this work is** to get better understanding of “needle fixation” phenomenon through comparison of its perception by injecting drug users, as well as by the staff of Czech addiction services. On the basis of these findings to suggest possible ways of how to work with clients with “needle fixation” in practice and the direction for further research in this area.

**Methodology:** Qualitative research approach has been used, data were obtained using the method of focus groups and semi-structured interviews; the respondents were staff of addiction services and injecting drug users, who are in contact with these services. For data analysis grounded theory was used.

**Conclusion:** Needle fixation is a term used by community of injecting drug users in the Czech Republic since at least the 1980s. Among injecting drug users it is mainly associated with the high popularity of injecting application and its high preference over all routes of administration. Phenomenon of needle fixation is associated with the severity and often applications in a matter of a few hours, in addition to dividing the dose in very small quantities, high frequency injection in a single day, application of water or alcohol injection route and not least the issue of self-harm or social status and joy connected with the right skill injecting themselves or others.

**Keywords:** dependency, needle fixation, injecting (iv drug use), ritual, psychological aspects, social aspects, drug use