

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Despite the high number of methamphetamine users in the Czech Republic, the treatment is still only abstinent. Pharmacotherapy in terms of substitution treatment is not yet in place. No study has yet been conducted to examine the views of workers working with methamphetamine users on the possibility of introducing substitution treatment for methamphetamine dependence in the Czech Republic.

OBJECTIVE: The aim of the practical part was to map the opinions of outpatient staff on the possibility of introducing substitution treatment for methamphetamine dependence. The monitored area included the evaluation of the success of the treatment of methamphetamine dependence in outpatient settings, disparity in working with users by substance use, percentage of methamphetamine users in the facilities, the suitability of drug addiction to methamphetamine for clients of outpatient facilities and position of substitution treatment for methamphetamine, according to respondents.

METHOD: The sample was elected on the basis of deliberate targeted selection through the institutions. Data capture was performed using a semi-structured interview method, which was recorded using audio recording and then transcribed. The data capture method was used to analyze the data.

FILES: The research team consisted of nine respondents (3 males, 6 females). These were employees of selected outpatient treatment facilities, who had to meet the minimum five years of practice in the field and at least secondary school health education.

RESULTS: All respondents were the result of introducing substitution treatment for methamphetamine dependence under certain conditions. Respondents reported groups of clients for whom substitution treatment would be more appropriate than others. Methamphetamine users, according to respondents' testimonies, are more represented in the treatment of users of other illicit drugs. Two respondents reported success as clients' abstinence. Other respondents reported that success in treatment is the fulfillment of client goals. Respondents estimate that treatment success ranged from 20% to 70%. The interventions provided do not differ according to the clients used according to the respondents' testimonies. All respondents agreed to substitution treatment by a health insurance company. The conditions of entry into substitution treatment indicated the need for a medical check before entering treatment, an initial consultation divided into 2-3 visits, the ability to follow the rules, motivation for treatment. Most respondents reported the need for phasing out treatment. All of the respondents expressed the need for therapeutic work with the client in substitution treatment. Among other recommendations, participants included, for example, insulin controls, a manual for substitution treatment, a driving ban, a treatment duration of no more than 6 months, and a proper explanation of substitution at the beginning of treatment.

CONCLUSION: The work brings a look at the experts working with methamphetamine users on the current topic of the possibility of introducing methamphetamine addiction therapy and partly on the current practice of outpatient methamphetamine treatment.

Keywords

Metamphetamine - outpatient treatment - methamphetamine dependence drug therapy - substitution treatment - evaluation