Session I.
Update on synthetic cathinones injection in Hungary

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Introduction

1. Prevalence and patterns of NPS use
2. NPS use among injecting drug users
3. Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system
4. Information on the treatment of synthetic cathinones
Prevalence of NPS use in Hungary

“Traditional” and “designer” substances in the substances seized between 2009-2013

Source: BSZKI 2014
Prevalence of NPS use in Hungary

The number of seizures of marihuana and synthetic cannabinoids between 2010-2013

Source: BSZKI 2014
Prevalence of NPS use in Hungary

The lifetime prevalence of the individual illicit drugs in the 19-64 year old population in 2013 (%)

Source: Paksi 2013
Prevalence of NPS use in Hungary

Lifetime prevalence rates per drug among 16-year-old pupils – ESPAD 2011 (%)

- Herbal cannabis/cannabis resin: 19.4%
- Alcohol with medicines: 10.3%
- Sniffing: 10.0%
- Hypnotics/sedatives: 9.3%
- Mephedrone: 6.0%
- Amphetamines: 5.6%
- Other substances: 4.5%
- Ecstasy: 4.4%
- LSD and other hallucinogens: 3.1%
- Whippets/balloons: 2.9%
- Cocaine: 2.5%
- GHB: 2.5%
- Magic mushrooms: 2.2%
- Crack: 2.1%
- Other opiates: 2.0%
- Heroin: 1.6%

Source: Elekes 2012
NPS use among IDUs

Types and proportion of primarily injected substances among IDUs during the past years

Source: NFP (Csák 2014)
NPS use among IDUs

Breakdown of NSP clients primarily injecting other drugs by drug type in 2013

N=2315

Source: NFP (Csák 2014)
NPS use among IDUs

Breakdown of NSP clients primarily injecting other drugs by drug type and age group in 2013

Source: NFP (Csák 2014)
NPS use among IDUs

The prevalence of risk behaviours (%) among IDUs tested during the voluntary HIV/HBV/HCV testing programme, by primarily injected drug type, in 2013 (N=125)

Source: OEK (Dudás et al. 2013); analysed by: NFP
NPS use among IDUs

HCV prevalence (%) among IDUs tested during the voluntary HIV/HBV/HCV diagnostic testing programme, by primarily injected drug type between 2010-2013

Source: OEK and NFP
Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system

- Clients demanding treatment because of the use of mephedrone appeared in higher numbers from the summer of 2010.

- NPSs are used intensively, sniffed or injected several times a day, more frequently than amphetamines.

- Polydrug use
  - intended and unintended (lack of inf. active agent)
  - no „drug of choice”, using what is available

- Change in legislation → change in used substances →
  → knowledge gathered become useless

- (+ Growing media coverage: desoriented, naked, sometimes aggressive NPS users in the streets.)
Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system

Breakdown of heroin, stimulant and other substance users according to frequency of substance use among those first entering treatment (%)

Source: TDI data collection (OAC 2014b); analysed by: NFP
Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system

The proportion of users of heroin, amphetamine, other stimulants and other (not classifiable) substances among clients starting treatment for the first time (not in QCT) (%)

Source: TDI data collection (OAC 2014b); analysed by: NFP
Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system

• Szily and Bitter (2013) Literature review:
  - drug induced psychosis became regular in everyday psychiatric practice
  - patients report MDPV-like new drugs: „crystal”, „benzone”: the consumed **drug or drugs remains unclear**, due to **difficulties in the accessibility of the required laboratories**.
  - Treatment demands relating to **heroin use dropped significantly**
  - NPSs cause physical and mental problems in a relatively short time --> harmful consequences develop rapidly **treatment demand after short period of time**
  - Eg: **MDPV**: paranoia, psychotic episodes, weight loss
  Adverse effect: cardiovascular, neurological, respiratory, gastrointestinal side effects

Consequences of the spread of NPS use for the treatment and care system

- Rácz and Bodrogi (2014) short analysis:
  - psychiatric examination of 207 clients
  - 32 cases used NPS
  - 21 clients exhibited serious psychopathological symptoms: psychosis, anxiety, aggression
  - 6 cases referred to further treatment, 2 clients using „crystal” referred for acute psychiatric treatment

Information on the treatment of synthetic cathinones

- Szily and Bitter (2013):
  - fast and adequate treatment is inevitable, but no treatment evidences or guides exist
  - Short-time administration of benzodiazepines seems to be effective in reducing agitation, violent behavior, seizures and sympathetic hyperactivity
  - MDPV, psychotic sympt.: Kalapos (2011) **combined risperidone and clonazepam** treatment seemed beneficial
    Farkas et al. (2013) sympt.s remitted after few days’ treatment with **low-dose antipsychotics** (risperidone, olanzapin, haloperidol, zuclopenthixol) and **BZDs**
Information on the treatment of synthetic cathinones

• Szily and Bitter (2013):
  - Conclusion:

  „Psychotic states, although can be severe, can be effectively treated with **low doses of typical or atypical antipsychotics**, though **further research is needed**, mainly in terms of safety and relative efficacy of antipsychotics. **Benzodiazepines** seem to be helpful, too.”
Thank you for your attention!

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