

DRUG DEPENDENCE THE FRENCH MONITORING SYSTEM

*Agence française
de sécurité sanitaire
des produits de santé*



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● PHARMACODEPENDANCE

- Cluster of behavioural, cognitive and physiological phenomena
- Drug craving and persistent drug seeking behaviour with or without physical dependence
- Self-administration ; deleterious physical behavioural changes constituting public health problems

WORKING FIELDS AND DEFINITIONS



● ABUSE

- Excessive
- Voluntary
- Persistent or sporadic use
- Physical or mental health damage

WORKING FIELDS



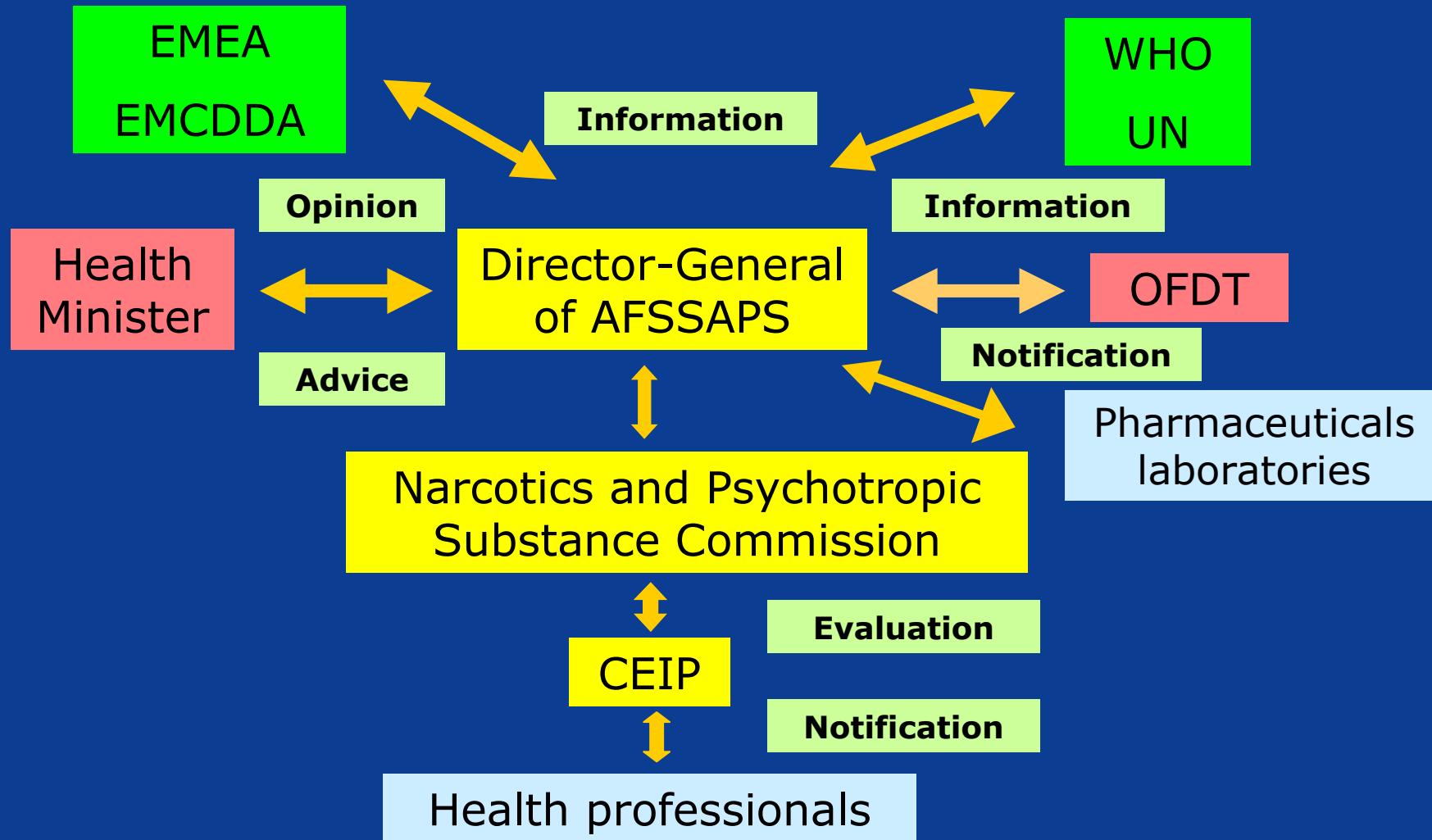
- Any psychoactive substances, medicines, plants, drugs or products containing them
 - Medicines : substitution treatment, benzodiazepines, stimulants, anesthetics..
 - Drugs : ecstasy, amphetamines...
 - Plants : cannabis, hallucinogenic mushrooms, Ayahuasca...
 - Products : gas (N2O)...
- Alcohol and tobacco excluded

THE FRENCH MONITORING SYSTEM



- Set up in 1990
- Regular basis from 1999
 - Decree on 31 March 1999
- Head of this warning system
 - Afssaps (French Health Products Safety Agency)
 - July 1, 1998 law

ORGANIZATION OF THE DRUG DEPENDENCE NETWORK



- Head of the structure
- Animation and coordination of the network
- Regulatory working (with Health Ministry)
- European and International relationships

- Centres specialized in clinical or experimental pharmacology, analytical toxicology or epidemiology
- Established in university hospitals in major French cities
- 10 CEIP : Bordeaux, Caen, Grenoble Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nancy, Nantes, Paris Toulouse
- And 7 associated centres

CEIP's MISSIONS (1)



1) Collecting cases of drug dependence and psychoactive substance abuse

- Annual studies : OSIAP, OPPIDUM, DRAMES, SINTES, ASOS, chemical submission
- Spontaneous notification by health professionals (NotS)
- Punctual and specific studies

CEIP's MISSIONS (2)



- 2) Providing of information and education to health professionnals and other involved professionnals on the risk of abuse and dependence**

- 3) Providing of expert advice and evaluation to health establishment staff and their administrative authorities**

CEIP's MISSIONS (3)



4) Research work (preclinical/clinical/epidemiology)

- Experimental research
- Behaviour effects in animal
- Drug discrimination
- Conditioned place preference
- Withdrawal studies
- Epidemiological research
- Development of new tools

COMPOSITION

- 15 governmental members
- 18 members appointed by the Health minister selected according to their expertise

Missions

- Assessment of the dependence and abuse potential of the psychoactives products
- Assessment of the nature and magnitude of health problems related to such substances
- Proposal of regular measures - or any investigations or studies - in order to preserve public health to the Health Minister and the General Director of Afssaps

Examples of regulatory amendments

- Regulation on prescription requirements
- Addition to the narcotics or to the psychotropic substance list
- Information provided to health care professionals about the right use of medicinal products

DRUG DEPENDENCE

Updated data

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Nathalie Richard - Unité stupéfiants et psychotropes

NotS (Spontaneous notification)

- Collecting spontaneous notifications of drug abuse or drug dependence by health professionals
- Immediate and mandatory notification of the serious cases
- Detection of the use of new products or new ways of administration

2005 : 1830 spontaneous notifications

OSIAP (Suspicious Prescriptions Indicating Possible Abuse)

- Identification of drug abuse by means of falsified prescriptions presented to dispensing pharmacies
- Determination of the list of medicinal products most frequently abused, nationally and regionally, in relation to sales figures

2005 : 494 suspicious prescriptions collected

Methodological tools of CEIP



OPPIDUM (Observation of Illegal Drugs and Misuse of Psychotropic Medications)

- Annual multicentric survey, conducted during 4 weeks in October
- Data collection carried out through interviews in centres of investigation selected by the CEIP
- Identification of the evolution of the consumption of the psychotropic substances and assessment the misuse of the medicine drugs

2005 : 3760 forms collected by 106 specialized centres

OPPIDUM (Observation of Illegal Drugs and Misuse of Psychotropic Medications)

2005

- Apparition of clonazepam
- Consumption of flunitrazepam and clorazepate decreased
- Consumption of heroin and cocaine as well as the injection

DRAMES (Deaths Related to Drug and Substance Abuse)

- National reporting system of deaths related to substance abuse or drug dependence
- Identification of the causes of death due to drugs and substance abuse
- Assessment of toxicity level of substances in question

2005 : 69 cases related-death

Methodological tools of CEIP



ASOS (Analgesic narcotic, Secure prescription)

Provides information on the prescription and delivery of analgesic narcotic in France

2006

- Increase of analgesic narcotics' consumption
- Decrease of prescriptions' conformity

Chemical submission national study

- Forward-looking device of collection of the cases since July 1st, 2003
- Identification and dosage of substances in cause, knowledge of the context of the aggression and *the modus operandi*

→ 258 cases from July 2003 to March 2005

Methodological tools of CEIP TREND 2005



- Appearance of clonazepam in the hit of the most abused medicines (OPPIDUM, NotS, chemical submission)
- Zolpidem and bromazepam very abused (chemical submission, OSIAP, OPPIDUM)
- Decrease of flunitrazepam and clorazepate by drugs abusers
- Benzodiazepines are the most consumed in chemical submission
- Key role of cannabis in chemical submission
- Increase of the consumption of heroin and cocaine (OPPIDUM)
- Increase of injection (OPPIDUM)
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Some examples

- Measures in order to ensure proper use of medicinal products
 - Strengthening of the conditions of prescription and delivery (Tranxene 20 mg®)
 - Implementation of child proof cap (methadone syrup)
 - Addition of mentions on risks of drug dependence in the SPC (medicinal products containing zolpidem and zopiclone)

Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Commission : summary 2003/06



- Addition to the narcotics list
 - Ayahuasca
 - 4 synthetic drugs
 - TMA-2, 2CT2, 2CT7 and 2CI

Some examples

- Reflexion on substitution treatment
 - Subutex® : several recommandations in order to limit its misuse and its illicit use
 - Positif advice for two substitution treatments
 - Methadone tablet
 - The first generic of Subutex®

Some examples

- Chemical submission
 - Negativ advice for one effervescent tablet of zolpidem
 - Creation of a workgroup which will be in charge of elaborating galenic recommendations in order to limit the risks of chemical submission