DRUG DEPENDENCE
THE FRENCH MONITORING SYSTEM

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WORKING FIELDS AND DEFINITIONS

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

• 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
1) Collecting cases of drug dependence and psychoactive substance abuse

Annual studies: OSIAP, OPPIDUM, DRAMES, SINTES, ASOS, chemical submission

Spontaneous notification by health professionnals (NotS)

Punctual and specific studies
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
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 professionnals about the right use of medicinal products
DRUG DEPENDENCE

Updated data

Nathalie Richard - Unité stupéfiants et psychotropes

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Methodological tools of CEIP

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
Methodological tools of CEIP

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
Methodological tools of CEIP

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
Methodological tools of CEIP

**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
Methodological tools of CEIP

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)
• Addition to the narcotics list

  ▪ Ayahuasca

  ▪ 4 synthethic drugs
    ▪ TMA-2, 2CT2, 2CT7 and 2Cl
Some examples

- Reflexion on substitution treatment
  - Subutex®: several recommendations 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