

Results: Our study included 27 articles, comprising 15 articles addressing pathological gambling from a neuroimaging perspective, 7 articles focusing on neurochemistry, and 5 articles discussing the therapeutic implications of neurobiological mechanisms. Literature studies reveal that the primary neurobiological mechanisms explaining pathological gambling involve dysfunctions in the brain circuits of the “reward system,” particularly in the striatum and ventromedial prefrontal cortex. The studies also highlighted the central role of dopamine and dopaminergic receptors, as well as the involvement of other noradrenergic, serotonergic, glutamatergic, and opioid systems in the disorder’s development, with preliminary evidence suggesting the effectiveness of medications that alter these neurotransmitters.

Conclusions: Pathological gambling is an increasingly common psychiatric disorder that remains underestimated to this day. Therefore, it is important to clarify the neurobiological mechanisms involved in the etiology of this disorder to develop targeted intervention strategies.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0116

Alcohol addiction, trichotillomania, and trauma: is there a secret link? A case report

M. Štracak¹, A. Boban², A. Krešo², M. Škarić² and I. Todorčić laidlaw^{3*}

¹Psychiatry, “Ivo Pedišić” General Hospital, Sisak; ²Psychiatry, “Dr. Ivan Barbot” Neuropsychiatry hospital, Popovača and ³Psychiatry, “Vrapče” University Psychiatric hospital, Zagreb, Croatia

*Corresponding author.

doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.997

Introduction: Interpersonal traumas affect women’s ability to rely on their social network to cope, which increases their reliance on maladaptive avoidance coping strategies such as drinking. According to psychodynamic models of trichotillomania hair pulling is a manifestation of unresolved sexual conflicts, disordered attachment, and dissociation from traumatic memories. (Houghton, D. C., Mathew, A. S., Twohig, M. P., Saunders, S. M., Franklin, M. E., Compton, S. N., Neal-Barnett, A. M., & Woods, D. W. (2016). Trauma and trichotillomania: A tenuous relationship. *Journal of Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders*, 11, 91-95.)

Objectives: Evidence suggests that rather than making hair pulling worse, alcohol is often used to avoid negative affect related to hair pulling. It slows the nervous system’s activity and may also be used to reduce the urge to hair-pull. (Grant, J.E., Collins, M., Chesivoir, E. *et al.* Hazardous Alcohol Use in Trichotillomania. *Psychiatr Q* 94, 361–369 (2023))

Methods: We present a 43-year-old patient who has been hospitalized several times due to alcohol addiction. She is divorced, has no children, is unemployed, and finished elementary school. The patient reported that she started drinking at high school during weekend parties and gradually her drinking became more frequent. Now she is drinking a liter of vodka a day. Her last hospitalization was after she left a domestic violence shelter for women where she escaped because her partner abused her. After she was placed in the alcoholism ward, the initial psychic examination discovered alopecia. Childhood anamnesis showed sexual trauma at a young age, and she reported that she started to pull her eyelashes in kindergarten after two members of a family sexually abused her. Now she

is wearing a wig and she reported that there are areas on her scalp where hair doesn’t grow anymore because she pulled it while she was in a shelter. As she described, pulling her hair gave her a sense of relief from anxiety.

Results: During hospitalization, her pharmacotherapy was corrected and titrated. She was included in psychotherapy, family therapy, group, and individual psychotherapy. The therapeutic procedures applied have improved her mental condition. She has been advised to continue outpatient psychiatric treatment, to regularly use pharmacotherapy, and to attend family therapy and rehabilitation club.

Conclusions: There is a clear need for future clinical studies not only in the area of trichotillomania’s relationship to substance use disorders but also in trauma coping mechanisms so we can truly understand how people adapt to and recover from trauma.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0118

Motivation for Sustained Substance Use in Patients with Psychotic Disorders

C. Tapoi¹

¹Addictions Department, Alexandru Obregia Clinical Psychiatry Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.998

Introduction: Substance use is a prevalent issue in individuals with psychotic disorders and has major implications for the course of the disease. Substance use is associated with treatment noncompliance, more positive symptoms and increased risk of relapse. However, reasons for substance use in people diagnosed with psychotic disorders are insufficiently understood.

Objectives: This study seeks to explore the specific reasons for substance use among patients diagnosed with psychotic disorder, while aiming to identify subgroups of patients that may benefit from targeted interventions to reduce drug use.

Methods: We investigated the reasons for maintaining substance use in patients with a dual diagnosis of psychotic disorder and substance use disorder that were admitted to Alexandru Obregia Clinical Psychiatric Hospital, Addictions Department, Bucharest, Romania, between October 2024 and March 2025. Patients were evaluated through a semi-structured interview developed for this study.

Results: The results of the study will be available and presented during the EPA 2025 Congress.

Conclusions: Understanding the underlying motivations for substance use is crucial for developing targeted interventions that address the unique needs of patients with psychotic disorders, ultimately improving treatment outcomes and promoting long-term recovery.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0119

Psychiatric characteristics of pregnant crack users admitted to a referral center in Southern Brazil

M. B. Terra^{1*}, J. V. E. Santos¹, N. A. F. da Silva¹, L. M. A. Sartes², J. B. Schuch³ and F. H. P. Kessler³

¹Department of Internal Medicine, Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre; ²Department of Psychology, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora and ³Department of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul - Graduate Program in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Porto Alegre, Brazil

*Corresponding author.

doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.999

Introduction: Psychoactive substance use among pregnant women has reached alarmingly high rates and is considered a public health problem. Pregnancy is a period in which women become more sensitive and concerned about their well-being, in view of how that will affect their baby. Therefore, pregnancy becomes a favorable period for therapeutic intervention, especially with regard to drug use. Despite this, there is still a small number of studies that address the issue of female drug users in Brazil, especially due to stigma and prejudice.

Objectives: Our main aim was to characterize the clinical and psychiatric profile of pregnant crack users in Brazil, with a focus on comorbidities, the severity of crack use, and the use of other substances.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study of 24 pregnant crack users admitted to a referral hospital for psychiatric disorders in pregnant women, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, over three years. Most women tend to remain hospitalized for a long time, often months, until giving birth. This scenario directly influenced the sample size of this study. The following instruments were applied: a clinical-obstetric questionnaire; the condensed version of the Addiction Severity Index; a diagnostic interview for psychoactive substance use based on DSM-5; the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for DSM-IV; and the Semi-Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis II Personality Disorders (SCID-II).

Results: Most patients had severe crack dependence and used other substances, such as tobacco, cannabis, and alcohol. The median duration of crack use was three years, ranging between three and 12 years. Most women subsisted from illegal or informal activities; a fifth had previously been arrested and often had relationship problems. Twenty percent had HIV ($n = 5$), and 37.5% ($n = 9$) had syphilis. Borderline personality disorder was the most prevalent mental condition (62.5%), followed by suicidal tendencies (45.8%), hypomanic episodes due to substance use (37.5%), and past major depressive episodes (33.3%).

Conclusions: This is one of the few studies exploring and characterizing social, economic and health aspects of pregnant crack users in Brazil. An alarmingly high prevalence of consumption of other drugs, psychiatric disorders, and difficult-to-treat personality disorders was observed in our study. Investigating the psychiatric profile of women who use substances is essential to minimize the impacts on the mother and child, optimize therapeutic approaches to comorbidities, and enable more effective relapse prevention.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0122

Dual pathology and Takotsubo syndrome. A case report

M. Valverde Barea^{1*}, A. Jurado Arevalo¹, I. Contreras Pérez¹ and M. P. Vargas Melero¹

¹H. U. Jaén, Jaén, Spain

*Corresponding author.

doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.1000

Introduction: Cocaine use is a significant health problem, since its abuse constitutes a substance use disorder and can produce cardiovascular symptoms, including acute coronary syndrome (ACS). Tako-tsubo syndrome (TTS) is a transient dysfunction of the apical left ventricle that can manifest with intense chest pain and alterations in the electrocardiogram. TTS can be triggered by physical stressors (hyperthyroidism, cocaine or amphetamine abuse) or psychological stressors (grief or reaction to acute stress).

Objectives: The objective is to present the case of a patient who developed tako-tsubo syndrome after harmful cocaine use.

Methods: A 50-year-old woman, under psychiatric follow-up, diagnosed with mixed personality disorder, with a medical history of hypothyroidism. The patient has been presenting for 2 months after mourning the death of her husband with anxiety-depressive symptoms with a great behavioral impact with episodes of hetero-aggression and begins with abusive consumption of cannabis and cocaine toxins. The patient presents an episode of psychomotor agitation after acute consumption of cocaine, presenting psychotic symptoms. During the study in the emergency area, she verbalizes chest pain and complementary studies are performed with elevated cardiac enzymes and alterations in the electrocardiogram. Cardiology is contacted and after hospital admission and complementary studies, the diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome is reached, filiating it with Takotsubo syndrome triggered by cocaine consumption. The diagnoses presented by the patient with dual pathology would be a psychotic disorder due to toxins, a borderline personality disorder and harmful consumption of cocaine.

Results: Dual pathology in patients with personality disorder with toxin abuse such as in this case cocaine is very frequent. The situation of grief is an acute stressful situation that leads to greater emotional instability and, together with the toxic effects of cocaine, can trigger Takotsubo syndrome in patients. Therefore, when approaching patients with substance use, it is very important to always take into account the possible somatic complications that can be triggered. The treatment chosen to treat the psychotic symptoms that the patient presented was lurasidone, since it has a tolerability and cardiological safety profile.

Conclusions: In patients with dual pathology, it is very important to address all possible complications, both somatic and psychiatric, for proper therapeutic management.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0123

New psychoactive substances and mental health- Practical challenges for psychiatrists

V. A. Voicu^{1,2,3*}, O. Vasiliu^{1,4} and A. Ciobanu^{1,5}

¹Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy; ²Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences; ³Romanian Academy; ⁴Psychiatry Dept., Dr. Carol Davila University Emergency Central Military Hospital and ⁵"Prof. Al. Obregia" Psychiatry Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

*Corresponding author.

doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.1001

Introduction: New psychoactive substances (NPS) are a heterogeneous group of new drugs that are not controlled by the United Nations drugs conventions but may represent public health threats of largely the same impact as substances listed in the respective