

and a significant risk of AUD. Approximately 18% to 25% of patients meet the criteria for AUD, with men being more commonly affected. The clinical case describes a 56-year-old man with family history of AUD, who developed chronic pain after a work accident resulting in multiple trauma. The patient began consuming alcohol daily for pain relief, which escalated to an AUD diagnosis and worsened pain due to alcohol-induced hyperalgesia.

Conclusions: Alcohol use is prevalent among chronic pain patients, often as a form of self-medication. However, this practice is frequently counterproductive, as increased consumption to counteract tolerance can lead to serious complications, including hyperalgesia, psychiatric disorders, and significant difficulties in managing both pain and alcohol use disorder (AUD). The clinical case highlights these issues and reinforces the need for a multidisciplinary approach that addresses both pain management and alcohol dependence.

Early detection of problematic alcohol use is essential to prevent the development of AUD. A comprehensive treatment plan, incorporating strategies for pain control and addiction management, is crucial for improving the overall health and well-being of patients dealing with chronic pain.

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EPV0043

Hellenic National Observatory for Internet and Gaming Addiction

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Introduction: The Greek National Observatory for Internet and Gaming Addiction (NOIAD) is a state-sponsored organization that will be setup in the University of Thessaly during this year following its inclusion in the Greek National Health Plan for Mental Health 2021-2030.

Objectives: In this presentation of the setup and goals of NOIAD, a case will be brought forward for scientific collaboration across the European continent that could culminate in similar centers in different countries.

Methods: The main publication that NOIAD intends to produce annually will have the role of a national report or at least an update of the national situation. In addition to this report, the observatory is expected to prepare a number of studies or reports on individual problems or in response to questions from state institutions (eg Parliament, ministries). Implementation of an online platform (portal) of specialized but also popular knowledge that will aim to inform health professionals and the general population (parents, pupils/students, adults with an addiction problem) with different information profiles for each population. Information lectures, educational activities for minor students, organization of an annual interdisciplinary conference.

Results: NOIAD's principal goal is the planning and implementation of actions to address digital addictions through the collection of objective, reliable and valid information about the state of Internet and Gaming addiction prevalence and related research and clinical practice in Greece. NOIAD will provide a state-of-the-nation annual report and disseminate the relevant information and

conclusions to health professionals, government bodies and the wider population. Furthermore, NOIAD will plan and provide local preventative actions in the wider area of Thessaly, especially regarding the high-school and university student population; these actions will serve as blueprints for similar activities across Greece.

Conclusions: Setting up a national center to provide with a complete picture of Internet Addiction and Gaming Disorder, pool together research output and coordinate preventative actions will assist with a fragmented research landscape and make better use of limited resources.

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Sexwork and transactional sex in chemsex: results of an anonymous online study

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Introduction: Sex work and transactional sex (SWTS), along with Chemsex, are linked to high-risk sexual behaviors and poorer health outcomes. Chemsex is the use of methamphetamine, GHB/GBL and mephedrone in a sexual context especially among men who have sex with men (MSM). Transactional sex (TS) is the exchange of sexual services for other services or things in a non professional way. Sex-work (SW) means having sex with people in exchange for money in a professional way.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to determine the prevalence rates of sex work and transactional sex (SWTS) among chemsex users and to answer the question of whether the combination of the two leads to an increased risk profile of those affected in terms of sexual health.

Methods: To achieve this, we conducted an online survey across three European German-speaking countries, targeting MSM. The survey gathered data on participants' substance use patterns, sexual behaviors, and health outcomes, with a particular focus on their engagement in SWTS. SWTS was defined as the exchange of sexual favors for money, drugs, or other material goods, which has been shown to be associated with higher risk behaviors, including unprotected sex and multiple sexual partners.

Results: A total of 399 sexually active MSM were included, categorized into three sub-groups: 129 engaging in Chemsex (MSM-CX), 128 in sexualized substance use with non-Chemsex substances (MSM-SSU), and 142 not engaging in sexualized substance use (MSM-NSU). MSM-CX reported significantly higher rates of SWTS compared to both MSM-SSU ($p=.032$) and MSM-NSU ($p<.001$), indicating that Chemsex use is strongly linked to transactional sex. Both Chemsex and SWTS were associated with higher HIV ($p<.001$, $p=.042$) and STI ($p<.001$, $p=.023$) prevalence, but no cumulative effect was found. Among MSM-CX engaging in SWTS, participants were younger ($p=.006$), had more sexual partners ($p=.029$), and reported higher substance use, including methamphetamine, mephedrone, and GHB/GBL. These factors may contribute to the increased vulnerability to HIV and STIs.