

Characteristics of the antisocial personality of narcotic drug users

Emil Benedik, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Psychiatric Hospital, Begunje 55, 4275 Begunje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia

It is assumed that heroin addicts often have one of the personality disorders. Among them, different authors particularly highlight the antisocial personality disorder. The question arises of what these disorders are and whether they are a cause or a consequence of drug use. According to the classification of mental disorders, the basic characteristic of this disorder, which makes it different from other personality disorders, is long-standing antisocial behaviour, already observed in childhood, the goal of which is the acquisition of personal benefit, material advantages and power over other people. In achieving their goals, antisocial persons do not choose their means, they are aggressive, insensible, they ignore the consequences of their acts and do not care about other people. For this reason they often engage in criminal behaviour. With the use of a questionnaire, based on the classifications of mental disorders DSM-IV and ICD-10 and specific cognitive schemes, i.e. basic convictions about themselves and other people (which, according to Beck, are typical of this disorder), the differences between people addicted to narcotic drugs and healthy people were examined. The results reveal only a certain degree of antisocial behaviour in drug addicts, especially that connected with the acquisition and use of drugs, and in addition, some other characteristics typical of a broader symptomatology of personality disorders, above all the borderline syndrome.

Keywords: antisocial personality disorders, borderline personality disorders, antisocial behaviour, drug addiction, cognitive schemes

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