Abstract

Auricular acupuncture is a non-pharmacological method used to treat addiction. This method was used within the currently available drug abuse programmes, alongside with other medical and psychological/psychosocial approaches. From May 2002 to October 2004, 94 patients with addiction problems (56 cocaine abusers, 36 heroin abusers, 2 cannabis abusers) have been treated. During the six months of follow-up, the urine samples collected were constantly negative in 67% (24 pt) of heroin and in 55% (31 pt) of cocaine abusers. Of all patients, 67% (63 pt) underwent psychological treatment. Of these, 77% (23 pt) were addicted to cocaine. The results suggest that auricular acupuncture can be a key-factor in the psychological relationship between drug addicts, particularly cocaine users, and their caregivers. Further evaluation of the cost/effectiveness and of the role of this method are warranted.

Keywords: Acupuncture, Integrated treatments, Heroin addiction, Cocaine addiction