Abstract

The article presents the methods and the main results of a research study conducted to assess comorbidity between heroin addiction and pathological gambling. The study was carried out by health professionals of various Public Substance Abuse Services in the Region Lombardia, who coordinate their clinical activity and research in the field, within a regional working group. The research was carried out on 998 subjects. The prevalence of excessive and pathological gamblers (respectively 12.3 and 20.1%) among heroin addicts was much higher than that reported for the general population. Data analysis indicates further research may be useful on the connections between pathological gambling and drug abuse/dependence, both appearing as symptomatic behaviours within a common underlying process.

Keywords: Heroin Addiction, Gambling, Comorbility, Multicentric research study