

DOES ALCOHOL REDUCE TENSION IN HETEROSEXUAL INTERACTION? Sandra A. Brown and John C. Schafer. Dept. of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego.

Recent investigations have reported that alcohol is expected to reduce tension and facilitate social interaction (Brown, Goldman & Christiansen, 1985). While this expectancy is consistent with tension reduction and stress response dampening theories of alcohol abuse, laboratory investigations of heterosexual interaction have yielded mixed results. In particular, while behavioral and physiological measures of social anxiety may decrease for males, alcohol and its expectancy may increase anxiety for women. Similarly, sexual arousal and perceived reactivity may vary as a function of alcohol expectancy and gender. Few studies have explored these influences simultaneously or in a laboratory setting which is familiar to the subject and designed to reduce extraneous error variance due to novelty of the physical or social environment. The present study was designed to examine the effects of alcohol, expecting alcohol and gender on behavioral and physiological responses to a familiar structured social interaction.

CNS STIMULANT EFFECTS ON AGGRESSION IN ADD AND ADD/AGGRESSIVE CHILDREN. William E. Pelham. Florida State University; and Debra A. Murphy. Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

One of the common deviant behaviors exhibited by many hyperactive (ADD) children is aggression, which is exhibited

towards property (e.g., destruction thereof), peers, (e.g., fighting) or adults (e.g., defiance). Although the most common treatment for ADD for 25 years has been treatment with a CNS stimulant and although it has long been known that stimulants improve the classroom demeanor of ADD children, the effects of stimulants on the children's aggressiveness has been only recently described. The purpose of this presentation will be to review a series of studies that have examined the effects of stimulants on ADD children's aggressive behavior, primarily as directed towards peers and adults. The studies (1) have involved both methylphenidate and pemoline, (2) have included single doses and dose-response analyses, (3) have involved dyadic, small group, and large group interactions, and (4) have been conducted both in laboratory and natural settings. A fairly consistent pattern of results has emerged. Most of the highly aggressive ADD children respond to stimulants with a decrease in aggressiveness. In contrast, nonaggressive ADD children show either no effect or an increase in aggressiveness in response to stimulants. For example, in one study of ADD children in playgroups with unfamiliar nonADD peers, highly aggressive children showed mean rate of 19.8, 13.25, and 3.4 occurrences of aggression during 36-minute observations of the effects of placebo, 0.3 mg/kg, and 0.6 mg/kg methylphenidate, respectively. Comparable rates for nonaggressive children were 2.7, 1.75, and 4.25 occurrences. Similar, divergent responses to 0.3 mg/kg methylphenidate were obtained when low and high aggressive ADD children's responses to perceived peer aggression were examined on a laboratory task. Even within aggressive subgroups of ADD, however, considerable individual differences were apparent in response to stimulants on measures of aggression.

ABSTRACTS

Paper Session: Linda Dykstra, chair
Monday, August 25, 12:00-1:50 p.m.
Caucus Room, Washington Hilton

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON THE SPEED OF MEMORY RETRIEVAL. Jennifer Stempel, Bill E. Beckwith and Thomas V. Petros. University of North Dakota.

The present study investigated the effect of alcohol on retrieval from long-term memory by using a set of cognitive decision tasks. Subjects were administered 0 or 1 ml/kg of alcohol, and then made physical, lexical, and semantic decisions about pairs of words. Intoxicated subjects responded significantly slower than placebo subjects for the lexical and semantic decisions. The results suggest that alcohol induced memory deficits may be the result of a slower rate of cognitive operations on the part of intoxicated subjects that impairs the efficiency of their working memory operations.

METHADONE AND ACETYLMETHADOL: SYSTEMATIC VERSUS DIFFERENTIAL EFFECTS ON AFFECTIVE STATES. Frederick R. Snyder. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Baltimore, MD; and Mark A. Reynolds. University of Maryland Dental School.

Patient records of participants in a multi-center, Phase II Clinical Trial comparing the efficacy of methadone (50 mg or

100 mg) versus 1-alpha-acetylmethadol (80 mg), were examined to investigate changes in affective states as a result of drug-maintenance treatment for heroin addiction. Patients were randomly assigned to treatment groups and all medications were dispensed in a double-blind fashion. The Symptom Checklist-90 (SCL-90) was administered at time of admission (week-0) and again at 12 weeks. Results indicated that methadone treatment (50 or 100 mg) failed to produce a change in somatic complaints while acetylmethadol resulted in a significant reduction in patients' somatization scores. However, this effect of acetylmethadol was a differential one as indicated by the nonsignificant correlation of scores at weeks 0 and 12. All treatment groups exhibited a significant reduction in mean depression scores. Anxiety and paranoid ideation scores were significantly lower after 12 weeks within the M-50 and L-80 treatment groups but not within the M-100 group. Results are discussed in terms of the need for examining changes due to drug treatments at the individual, as well as the group level, in order to maximize the efficacy of such treatments.

EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA AND TASK PERFORMANCE ON CARDIOVASCULAR RESPONSIVITY. Richard M. Capriotti, Richard W. Foltin, Joseph V. Brady and Marian W. Fischman. Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.