

ABSTRACTS

POSTER SESSION

Psychopharmacology

Saturday August 29, 1987 • 3 00 p m – 5 50 p m

New York Penta Hotel • Center Mezzanine

Chair *Michael Pontecorvo*, Nova Pharmaceuticals, Baltimore, MD

DO EXPECTANCIES MEDIATE FEMALE AGGRESSION DURING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION? Vicki A Creamer VA Medical Center, San Diego, CA, Sandara A Brown VA Medical Center and University of CA, San Diego, Loretta J Kratz San Diego State University

The mediating effects of alcohol expectancy on subsequent behavior have generated interest in clarifying domains most impacted by pharmacologic versus expectancy effects of alcohol. With reference to aggressive behavior, sex differences have not been firmly established. Twenty-four women (ages 25 to 40) who scored high or low on the aggression subscale of the Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire participated. After ingesting either tonic or moderate doses of alcohol, aggressive responses were recorded to a series of hazardous driving scenarios. A significant expectancy effect for anger was noted and in one scenario, alcohol produced significantly less aggressive intentions than tonic.

MOOD EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND EXPECTANCIES DURING MENSTRUAL CYCLE Vincent J Adesso and Wendy J Freitag University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

This research was aimed at developing a profile of women's moods across the menstrual cycle and determining alcohol's effects upon these moods. The Profile of Mood Stages was used to measure mood. The 96 volunteer, female, heavy drinkers were randomly assigned to the cells of the balanced placebo design with equal numbers in each of the three menstrual phases. Alcohol subjects received enough to raise their blood alcohol level to 0.07 mg%. Preliminary results indicated that women's baseline moods did not differ regardless of menstrual phase. During drinking, mood was influenced by alcohol, menstrual phase, and degree of intoxication but not by expectancies.

ASSESSMENT OF AIDS RISK AMONG TREATMENT SEEKING DRUG ABUSERS John L Black and Michael P Dolan Dallas VA Medical Center, John R Skinner Terrell State Hospital, James Shore and Horace A DeFord Dallas VA Medical Center

We investigated needle sharing and sexual behavior among 168 treatment seeking drug abusers. The majority of IV drug users (56%) reported needle sharing during the past year, while 17% reported sharing in the past but stopping over a year ago. The majority of sharers reported restricting sharing to few people and familiar settings. The majority of subjects reported three or fewer female sexual partners, tended to deny homosexual contact, but 14% reported contact with female prostitutes. Only one subject tested positive for AIDS exposure, while 31% tested positive for hepatitis B exposure. Predictors of hepatitis B exposure are discussed.

COMPARING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OPIATE COCAINE AND SPEEDBALL USERS Michael P Dolan, John L Black, John R Skinner and Ralph Robinowitz Drug Dependence Treatment Program, VA Medical Center, Dallas, TX

The purpose of this study was to compare the characteristics of drug users according to their drug of choice. The characteristics studied were divided into three categories: demographic, personality and drug use history. Subjects were 63 male drug users admitted to a 30 day inpatient treatment program. Subjects were categorized into three groups: opiate users, cocaine users and speedball (heroin and cocaine) users. Three variables, severity of drug use, the MMPI 0 scale and type of discharge, differentiated the groups. The relationship of drug of choice to the assessment and treatment of drug abusers was discussed.

EFFECTS OF SECOBARBITAL ON HUMAN AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR Don R Cherek, C Simon Sebastian Department of Psychiatry, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, and Joel L Steinberg Department of Psychiatry, VA Medical Center, Dallas, TX

Male subjects were administered placebo and three doses (50, 100 and 200 mg per 70 kg of body weight) of secobarbital in a laboratory situation which provided both aggressive and non-aggressive response options. Aggressive responding was the ostensible subtraction of points (money) from a fictitious person. The non-aggressive option was responding to accumulate points exchangeable for money. Aggressive responding was established by provocations (point subtractions) which were attributed to the other person, and maintained by escape from scheduled provocations for a specified period of time. Secobarbital decreased non-aggressive responding, while increasing aggressive responding.

AN EVALUATION OF CARBAMAZEPINE (TEGRETOL) IN CHRONIC TREATMENT-REFRACTORY SCHIZOPHRENIA J Herrera, J Sramek, J Costa, C Heh and C Wernberg Clinical Research Unit, Metropolitan State Hospital, Norwalk, CA

Many schizophrenics who appear refractory to neuroleptics represent a segment of the disorder in which the symptomatology is characterized by a defect state with few or none of the good-prognosis symptoms (positive symptoms) such as hallucinations and delusions. Instead, the so-called negative symptoms (apathy, poor affect, social withdrawal) predominate. In a recent study, Herrera, Sramek and Costa (1986) reported that the adjunctive use of carbamazepine resulted in a significant improvement on the negative symptoms of schizophrenia. The objective of this single-blind study was to compare the efficacy of carbamazepine alone in the treatment of refractory schizophrenia. Included in the study were 25 male patients who met DSM III criteria for schizophrenia and are proven resistant to previous neuroleptic treatment efforts. Identified study candidates underwent a comprehensive clinical evaluation and then entered a 7 day washout period receiving only placebo cap-