

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
REGIONAL SYMPOSIA 2008

Addictions: understanding the Patient

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Addictions: understanding the Patient

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Topics covered

- *Concept of Addiction*
- *Methadone and other substitutions*
- *Intoxication and Aggression*
- *Ethical & Legal Frameworks*
- *Guidelines on Opioids in Chronic Non-Malignant Pain*

questions at end

Concept of Addiction

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Spectrum of Addiction

- Use
- Hazardous Use - *over an adverse risk threshold*
- Abuse – *recurrent problems*
- Dependence

Dependence

- Maladaptive pattern, impairment /distress etc
- ≥ 3 in 12 months:-
 - tolerance
 - withdrawal
 - longer or larger than intended
 - unable to cut down
 - time spent
 - given up activities
 - use despite knowledge of harm

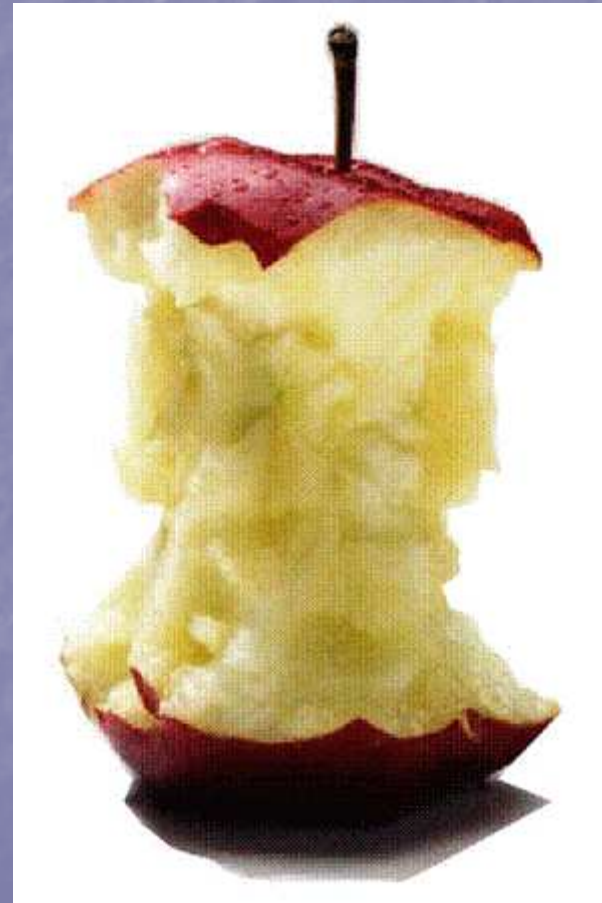
Dependence

- neuro-adaptation

Tolerance

Withdrawal

- salience
- dyscontrol
- compulsion



Drivers of Dependence



- Genetics
 - 50% of variance of alcoholism
 - Strong family history , even in separately reared twins
 - Primates/rats

Drivers of Dependence

- Abolition of withdrawal



- Euphoric or “beneficial” effect



Drivers of Dependence

- Socio-cultural context



- Triggers & Cues



What's the point of Methadone?

- Reduces cravings
- Lowers reward
- Changes priorities
- External control
- 2-3 years

stops withdrawal

no euphoria

change in salience

helps dyscontrol

not immediate

Other Substitution Therapies?

- Nicotine Replacement
physical cover allows psychological cover
- Benzodiazepines
*stable dose? amnesic effects? problematic
disinhibition? harm reduction?*
- Methamphetamines
binge/crash pattern

Intoxicated Clients

What?

When?

How much?

Delay dispensing

Refuse (*remember the coroner!*)

Speak to the prescriber



Aggressive clients

- Drug disinhibition
- Personality
- Instrumental aggression

- *Your safety*
- *Calm & Clear*
- *Police*
- *Prescriber*



Ethics and the Law

- Obligation to raise concerns about recurrent, inappropriate *prescribing*
www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz
- Doctors should prescribe safely, and avoid over-prescription of addictive drugs
www.mcnz.org.nz
- It is an offence for an unauthorized doctor to prescribe CDs for the treatment of dependence
Misuse of drugs Act 1975 S.24

Guidelines for the Use of Opioids in Chronic Non-malignant Pain

- 5-10% chronic pain (20+% in socially disadvantaged; 25+% in adolescent girls; obesity; depression)
- No evidence opioids work after 16weeks
- Opioid hyperalgesia

Opioids in CNMP

- *opiophobia vs opiophilia*
- Strong opioids better than weak
- Risk of untreated pain
- Risk of dependence
- Risk of abuse
- Risk of diversion

Opioids for CNMP: Principles

- Comprehensive Ax
- Trial other therapies
- Contract opioid use
- Appraise reasons for dose increases
- Limit addiction risk – not *iv*, not *prn*, emphasise function not comfort, review, discontinue if ineffective, monitor monitor monitor; communicate



12/5/20

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