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# ASSESSMENT OF THE INFLUENCE OF PSYCHOPATHIC DISORDERS ON THE DYNAMICS OF WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME IN DEPENDENCE ON SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

**Abstract:** The growing popularity of new psychoactive substances is a dangerous trend in modern society. From 2009 to 2013, more than 340 new chemical substances were synthesized. Over the past 3 years, patients suffering from dependence on “spices”, “bath salts” and “crystals” have been confronted by specialists of the inpatient narcological profile. However, to date, there is no reliable data on the features of the clinical course of such types of addictions.

**Key words:** psychoactive substances, psychopathic disorders, withdrawal syndrome, synthetic cannabinoids.

**Introduction:** At the same time, the prevalence of drug-related diseases is 3-5%, and taking into account hidden or latent forms, it can approach 17-20% of the adult population [1-6]. At the same time, one of the trends of modern drug addiction is the replacement of "classic" narcotic drugs with new psychoactive substances (hereinafter referred to as NPS), which have changed the drug situation and the modern landscape of drug addiction [7-10]. These substances are also known in the literature as "legal highs", "design drugs", new potentially dangerous chemicals (new potentially dangerous chemical substances), new synthetic drugs (hereinafter - NSN) [11-15]. These drugs, as a rule, come under the control of international anti-drug laws with a delay and are often produced and used to simulate the effects of controlled drugs such as cocaine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA - ecstasy), methamphetamine, etc. [16-18]. At the same time, they are distributed under the guise of inhaled "harmless" psychoactive substances (hereinafter - surfactants) for rest

and relaxation [19-22]. The attitude of society to synthetic drugs has practically no social immunity, as, for example, to drugs of the opium group, alcohol, etc.

One of the most actively promoted NPS on the illegal market is synthetic cathinones (NIDA, 2017). For the first time, representatives of the group of synthetic cathinones (MDPV, methylone, mephedrone, etc.) as narcotic drugs were registered in anti-drug legislation in 2003, and already in 2009 in the United Kingdom, the spread of SC was regarded as an epidemic [23-28]. The prevalence of the use of synthetic cathinones, according to various estimates, ranges from 3,5-9,6% of the population aged 15-34 years [29-34]. It is SC that is associated with an increase in the mortality of persons under 35 years of age, over the past five years, observed in the USA and Israel [35-40]. All this is happening against the background of the lack of studies of the clinic of intoxication and the formation of dependence on synthetic cathinones. Worldwide, there is an increase in referrals to toxicological and narcological clinics due to the use of synthetic cathinones [41-46].

**The purpose of the study.** to assess the impact of psychopathic disorders on the course of withdrawal syndrome in dependence on synthetic cannabinoids.

**Materials and methods of research.** The object of the study is 63 patients of the narcological hospital suffering from dependence on synthetic cannabinoids (JWH-18). The diagnosis was verified by expert evaluation according to the criteria of the International Classification of Diseases 10 revision (ICD-10) - heading F12. Criteria for inclusion in the study group: age of majority, consent to the study, withdrawal syndrome in mental and behavioral disorders due to the use of synthetic cannabinoids. Exclusion criteria: the presence of concomitant chemical dependencies (including from "traditional" drugs), the presence of endogenous disorders, dementia and other severe organic disorders. The subject of the study is psychopathic and withdrawal syndrome in patients with dependence on synthetic cannabinoids. Research methods: clinical and psychopathological, psychometric (Kardashian R.A. psychopathological disorders severity scale, 2007), statistical (Kaplan-Mayer survival analysis, Cox regression).

**The results of the study and their discussion.** The study group was divided into two subgroups according to the presence/absence of symptoms of psychopathic disorders in the anamnesis (heading ICD-10 – "F60"): group 1 – with the presence of symptoms of psychopathy (n=17), group 2 – with the absence of symptoms of psychopathy (n=46).

Both subgroups found no significant differences in the main socio-demographic factors. The average age in group 1 was 21,5±2,04 years, in group 2 – 21,2±3,29 years (U=370, p=0.74). Men made up the overwhelming majority in both groups: group 1 – 15 people (88,2%), group 2 – 42 people (91,3%). The average length of use of synthetic cannabinoids was also comparable in the subgroups: group 1 – 2,35 ±0,99 years, group 2 – 2±0,9 years (U=384,5 p=0,91). Tolerance to the substance also did not differ: group 1 – 2,12± 0,99 grams/day, group 2 – 2,00±0,76 grams/ day (U=375, p=0,79). The frequency of spice consumption in the subgroups was equivalent: group 1 - 3± 1.23 times/day, group 2 – 3,37± 1,42 times /day (U=324, p=0,28).

All patients dependent on synthetic cannabinoids entered the study in the initial phase of abstinence (1-2 days). Throughout the withdrawal period, they underwent a course of nonspecific detoxification infusion therapy. The dynamics of withdrawal syndrome was tracked using the Kardashian R.A. scale, which was filled in daily.

In the first days of withdrawal, the severity of withdrawal syndrome in the subgroups was comparable. Thus, the average degree of withdrawal syndrome prevailed in the study: in subgroup 1 - in 11 patients (64.7%), in subgroup 2 – in 37 patients (80.4%). When conducting a comparative analysis using Kaplan-Mayer survival curves (follow-up period of 20 days), the following features were identified. The average duration of the withdrawal period in subgroup 1 was longer (14,89 days, 95% CI 13,37-16,39) than in subgroup 2 (10,74 days, 95% CI 10,07-11,39). The long-rank test confirmed the statistical significance of the revealed differences (chi-squared 21,5 p<0,001). The evaluation of the prognostic model carried out using the Cox analysis confirmed the influence of the psychopathic factor on the duration of withdrawal syndrome. The odds ratio is 4,34, 95% CI 2,10-8,98, p<0,001.

**Conclusion.** Psychopathic disorders are one of the key comorbid factors influencing the course of the withdrawal period in chemical addictions. The study proved this fact in relation to dependence on synthetic cannabinoids. The study of other comorbid states associated with new types of addictions remains extremely important. The results of such studies are especially important in the construction of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for the curation of new types of narcological nosologies.

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