Alcoholics’ Evaluations of Alcoholism Treatment

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A sample of alcoholics who have considerable experience as participants in alcoholism treatment are interviewed for their recommendations and criticisms of treatment. Inpatient Milieu and Alcoholics Anonymous were the most frequent choices of treatments considered beneficial. Among treatments not recommended were specific inpatient facilities. Our subjects’ evaluations are compared with published reviews of treatment outcome studies. The relationships between treatment preferences, subject outcomes, and treatment resource use are analyzed. Our subjects view inpatient treatment as appropriate for dealing with the more extreme consequences of heavy drinking, but detoxification only is seen as inadequate. Advice and companionship were considered to be the most beneficial aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous. We anticipate that our results will assist in planning treatment programs that will be effective, and attractive to clients.

KEYWORDS. Alcoholism treatment, alcoholics’ evaluations of treatment

Participation in 12-Step-Based Fellowships
Among Dually-Diagnosed Persons

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Twelve-step groups (12SG), a useful recovery resource, are underutilized by dually-diagnosed persons. There has been little empirical research in this area. This study followed members of a dual-focus 12-step-based fellowship (N = 277) over
Indicators of the Alcohol Recovery Process:
Critical Items from Koss-Butcher and Lachar-Wrobel Analysis of the MMPI-2

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This study analyzed endorsement of the Koss-Butcher and the Lachar-Wrobel Critical Item sets from the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory 2 (MMPI-2, Butcher, Dahlstrom, Graham, Tellegen, & Kaemmer, 1989) by individuals and couples in alcoholism recovery. This exploratory investigation was a secondary analysis of data obtained from the Family Recovery Project conducted at the Mental Research Institute, Palo Alto, California. Gender, relationship to alcohol (alcoholic or co-alcoholic), and time in recovery were the independent variables. Fifty-two couples comprised the sample. The results of this study indicate that as recovery progresses, the experience becomes more similar for male and female alcoholics and co-alcoholics.

KEYWORDS. K-B MMPI-2 Critical Items, L-W MMPI-2 Critical Items, alcohol recovery

Suicidal Thoughts Among Homeless Alcohol and Other Drug Abusers

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This study of 188 homeless veterans in a substance abuse program in a Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the South was designed to examine predictors of suicidal thoughts. The significant predictors included several elements of attachment theory and duration and the intensity of alcohol and other drug abuse. Of special interest was whether attachment to caregivers and sexual abuse had significant statistical interactions with duration and intensity of alcohol and other drug use. Those interactions were significant and implications of the findings were discussed in relation to intervention.

KEYWORDS. Homeless, alcohol-other drug abusers, attachment theory, sexual abuse, suicidal thoughts

Treating Alcoholism as a Disorder of the Self:
Insights from Alcoholics Anonymous and Masterson

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Psychological susceptibility to alcoholism can be viewed as being related to failures in establishing healthy attachments of the child to their parents. These difficulties interfere with the child's separation and eventual individuation from the parent and also leave the child susceptible to developing a co-existing disorder of the self. The treatment of alcoholism, combining both Alcoholics Anonymous and Masterson's approach to the treatment of disorders of the self are described. Following Masterson's approach, there is a differential treatment orientation that follows an accurate diagnosis of the disorder of the self. Awareness of these theoretical approaches may help the therapist treat both the patient's alcoholism as well as their co-existing disorder of the self. The combining of both AA along with his object-relations treatment approach is felt to be more clinically effective than attendance in AA or psychotherapy alone.

KEYWORDS. Treatment, Masterson, Alcoholics Anonymous, disorders of the self

Comparison of Naltrexone and Placebo in Treatment of Alcohol Dependence of Adolescents

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This study assesses the efficacy and safety of long-term naltrexone treatment in alcohol dependence of adolescents. In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study, thirty patients, age 15 to 19 years, with chronic or episodic alcohol dependence were randomly allocated to treatment with naltrexone (50mg daily) or placebo for 90 days. Patients were assessed on the day treatment started and on days 30 and 90 by interview, self-report, questionnaire, and laboratory screening. At the end of treatment, 20 naltrexone treated and 10 placebo treated patients had been continuously abstinent (p = 0.0069). Naltrexone is an effective and well-tolerated pharmacological adjunct to psychosocial and behavioral treatment programs for the treatment of adolescent alcohol-dependent patients.

KEYWORDS. Naltrexone, alcoholism, adolescent, treatment