

CNS Stimulants : The Critical Problem of Thai Society

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The benefit from modern manufacturing, distribution and utilization of psychotropic substances for medical purpose is without doubt immeasurable. However, the blessing was commonly dogged by certain extent of misuse, abuse and dependence of some substances. Thailand, perhaps similar to many other developing countries, harbours long term endemic misuse and abuse of medicinal drugs. Furthermore, opiates abuse and dependence have been an indigenous phenomenon for centuries with occasional wide spread epidemic outbreak. At least for the last 10 years, some opiate dependents occasionally abuse central nervous stimulants especially the amphetamines, in an episodic manner.

In 1985, Sumyai V. reported that 15% of the long distant truck drivers used stimulant tablets in order to accomplish their task and 79% of those who used had a major traffic accident at least once during the last 12 months before interviewed.

In 1990, the Treatment Division, Office of the Narcotic Control Board reported that 0.13 and 0.10% of the drug dependent treatment population, in the annual treatment population between 1988 and 1989, used amphetamines as principal drug during the last 30 days before entering treatment. The age on admission covered from 16 - 40 years old. Their residences spreaded over 37 provinces and most of them were employed either on permanent or temporary basis.

Evidences above established a real concern on the extent and nature of use, misuse, abuse and dependence on amphetamines. They might very well be an uncalled for factor undermining the population health irrespective of other contentious issues related to social and economic consequences. There is perhaps no need to elaborate on the remarkable risk of amphetamines use. Society most likely will have to live with these problems for many years to come. To prevent and control deleterious consequences of amphetamines use, an effective demand reduction system should be developed, the sooner the better.

Symposium

Pharmacology and Toxicology of CNS Stimulants

Chaichan	Sangdee, Ph.D.
Punya	Khunawat, M.D., Ph.D.
Muckda	Chitcharoenthum, Ph.D.
Borpit	Klangkalya, Ph.D. (Moderator)

Topics

History and Chemistry of amphetamine analogs
Mechanisms of action
Effects of amphetamine in animals
Effects of amphetamine in human
Pharmacokinetics of amphetamine and congeners
and the impact on abuse problems
Neurotoxicity of amphetamine and congeners
Direct damage to organ systems
Treatment of amphetamine intoxication
Regulation problems