

Brain and Behavior Substance Abuse

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Teaching Points

- Substance abuse is under recognized and under treated.
- For diagnosis, specific questions about the onset of this disorder need to be asked

Outline

- Course rationale
- Prevalence
- Course Objectives
- Topic areas: drug types
- Diagnostic questions for clinical interview

Why a course on Substance Abuse ?

- **Very common disorder**
- **Poorly treated in clinical practice**

Prevalence Substance Use Disorders*

Lifetime

New Haven

15.0%

Baltimore

17.0%

St. Louis

18.1%

Six Months

New Haven

6.6%

Baltimore

7.9%

St. Louis

6.5%

***not including nicotine**

Course Objectives

- **Early recognition**
- **Distinguish addiction from normal tolerance, physical dependence and withdrawal**
- **Pharmacology of drugs of abuse**
- **Prevent progression from use to abuse to addiction**
- **Refer to appropriate specialists**

Drug Types

- **Nicotine**
- **Sedatives**
**Alcohol, Benzodiazepines, and
other hypnotics**
- **Stimulants**
- **Opioids**
- **Cannabinoids**
- **Hallucinogens**
LSD, PCP, and Ecstasy

Diagnostic Questions for Clinical Interview

- How did this occur ?
- Early signs or clues
- Effects on performance
- Trajectory
- What would you have said to patient if you had been his significant other?
- What caused the patient to get help ?

Course Progression

- **It has been established that Substance and Alcohol Use Disorders are brain diseases.**
- **The next series of lectures will discuss their pathophysiology, pharmacological and other therapeutic interventions used in treating these disorders.**