

made with 16 active derivations in six hours, one hour pre-alcohol and five hours post-alcohol, on each one of experimental days. This generated 20,736 (36 × 36 × 16) date pairs, which were then used in the construction of the correlation net.

BRAIN ANTIBODIES IN MENTAL DISORDERS

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Alterations of the immune status in psychiatric patients are known for decades. In these patients antibrain antibodies were regarded as a hallmark of autoimmune processes in mental disorders, especially in schizophrenia. We reexamined these studies by using an ultrasensitive microtechnique for gel electrophoresis, western blotting and ELISA.

Despite other reports no antibody binding to brain specific antigens could be detected. Interestingly antibodies only bound to some proteins later being identified as histones of the subgroup H3. No significant changes in IgG-levels of antibodies against histones compared to controls could be detected except for a slight decrease in cases of major depression. IgM-antibody binding to histones was significantly elevated in sera of patients suffering from alcoholism, paranoid schizophrenia, organic psychosis and schizoaffective disorder. According to our results a subgroup of schizophrenic and schizoaffective patients exhibit a stimulation of histone antibodies indicating an autoimmune process.

ICD-10 AND SCAN: PROBLEMS AND BENEFITS FOR RUSSIAN PSYCHIATRISTS

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According to the preceding agreements psychiatrists in Russia have to pass on to the ICD-10 by 1997. However, its diagnostic criteria are known to be different either from those of previous ICD versions and traditional nosological approach of Russian psychiatry. With a view to ascertain if psychiatrists experienced difficulties in utilization of altered diagnostic principles of forthcoming ICD modern version 80 Moscow psychiatrists from psychiatric hospitals and research centres were interviewed. About 55% of respondents reported some complications in application of the ICD-10 diagnostic system especially due to its syndromal classificational principles whereas 20% showed no troubles with it; 25% had not yet elaborated distinct personal attitude to the proposed modernized classification. It was obvious that psychiatrists precedingly acquainted with the DSM-system, PSE or SCAN and in particular those ones who had already applied them in researches more easily executed the ICD-10 diagnostic principles. Regarding the goal to expose if there were advantages of SCAN for psychiatric assessment the expert investigation of 20 non-psychotic patients was performed by 8 psychiatrists with roughly equal psychiatric training 3 of whom had in addition undergone SCAN course with the help of English colleagues. It was revealed that symptoms' detection was approximately by one third more precise in SCAN applied investigation. The output suggests the necessity of forestalling training in SCAN of research psychiatrists in conformity to ICD-10 installment in Russia to obtain common language for investigations both inside the country and those of foreign colleagues.

MENTAL HEALTH OF MINOR NATIONALITIES OF THE FAR NORTH OF RUSSIA

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5,400 Nenets people live in Nenets Autonomous Area (NAA) of the Arkhangelsk region. The Nenets people have a genetic link to the Mongoloid race. This population has lived for several thousand years in the extreme conditions of the high latitudes of Russia.

In this report we shall try to describe the clinical peculiarities of schizophrenia, epilepsy and depression of the Nenets people.

The adaptive mechanisms of the Nenets population to extreme conditions and the disontogenetic factor are very important parts of the pathomorphological structure of psychic diseases. These two factors can either cause the malignant development of some psychic diseases (alcoholism) or make the progredient development of other diseases softer (schizophrenia, epilepsy, depression). The psychosomatic factor is very important for some psychosomatic diseases and depressions. Adaptive properties of endorphin-opioid receptors in the structure of secondary compensatory reactions are rather important for the psychic and biological level of functioning during these diseases. Probably these mechanisms provide the lowering of the level of mental reactions. So, investigating psychic morbidity of the Nenets population we defined the invariantness of psychic diseases rather than their variability. In the entire Russian population, variability and polymorphism revealed themselves.

ECOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH OF THE POPULATION OF THE NORTH OF RUSSIA

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The up-to-date social and stress situation demands the evaluation of equivalent of existing forms and methods of work of psychiatric services, the objectivity and effectiveness of medical statistics, the development of system of monitoring of the nation health and the quantitative evaluation of its social, ecological and genetic components.

The epidemiological diagnosis of mental health of the population of the North of Russia has revealed a multifactoriness and polyethiologness of this nosological groupe. The maximal indices of incidentness and morbidity are noticed in extremal climate, geographical and ecological zones. The analysis having carried out for 10 years of standard indices of spreading of psychic diseases has revealed "territories of risk" which can be estimated as zones of psychic epidemics.

In the conditions of global social and stress situation in Russia it has been noticed a galloping increase of unpsychotic psychic and psychosomatic disorders, dieing out of psychic patients, increase of selfdestroying forms of behaviour (alcoholism, drug abuse, suicides). That is why it is possible to say that psychic endemia in Russia demands a radical structural and organisational review of activity of a psychiatric service.

THEORY AND PHENOMENOLOGY OF ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

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Altered States of Consciousness (ASC) present experiences with precise characteristics, that can be verbalized and seldom appear in the ordinary state of consciousness. ASC are usually self induced and ethiological independent but can occur as well spontaneously and are not a result of disease or social adversity. Generally they last for some minutes or hours in opposition to typical psychiatric disorder.