

P29 *Environmental psychiatry***COPING STYLES OF COMBAT VETERANS WITH PTSD**

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**Objective:** to analyse subjective coping styles during post-traumatic adaptation of 100 combat veterans of the 1991 war in Yugoslavia affected by PTSD.

**Method:** Data from self-questionnaires comprising 10 coping styles were analyzed. The evaluation of the effects was made according to the dichotomous scale of self-evaluation.

**Results:** 56% of participants faced post-traumatic symptoms positively (asking for help from their community, professional help, seeking employment, taking part in sporting activities). 31% found this approach helpful while 25% denied its usefulness. 44% chose a negative coping style (abuse of psycho-active substances, alcohol, alienation). Out of this percentage, 33% found the approach negative while 11% found it positive.

**Conclusions:** Coping styles are determined by personal style, social and cultural milieu, support of family and friends etc. As a result, forms of post-traumatic adaptation can be pathologic or non-pathologic. The results of this study are important for prevention and therapy of stress-related casualties. Important risk factors include social isolation, lack of community support, abuse of psychoactive substances and other pathologic behaviour of victims of war trauma.

P30 *Environmental psychiatry***PERSPECTIVES OF RELATIVES OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS**

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**Objectives:** The relatives of psychiatric patients can have a strong influence on the outcome of the treatment process. Modification of these perspectives can prevent a likely relapse or poor prognosis.

**Method:** 30 relatives of depressed and psychotic patients were included and a control group matching age, gender and education level were evaluated. Two questionnaires prepared by the authors were used to evaluation.

**Results:** Relatives attribute the causes of the disorders mainly to personal and biological causes than familial or esoteric causes. There were slight differences between the two groups regarding etiologic questions, but while relatives of depressed patients reported mostly personality issues for treatment, relatives of psychotic patients reported biological treatments.

**Conclusion:** The results indicated that a regular and structured education programme is needed to cope with irrelevant attributions of relatives.

P31 *Environmental psychiatry***GROUP ANALYSIS OF STAFF WORKING WITH REFUGEES**

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The objective of this paper is to indicate specific problems of staff working with refugees which were discovered in the application of group analytic psychotherapy. Between 1992 and 1996 several groups were in existence due to the large number of refugees coming to Serbia from war zones. Specific group analysis revealed that staff and therapists were exposed to similar uncertainties and danger due to their living in the immediate vicinity of the war. Our results, illustrated by clinical vignettes, indicate that the staff were overwhelmed by their anxieties provoked by working with refugees and supported their subgrouping, isolation, inhibition and suffocation of initiative. It was concluded that staff working through these feelings could expose their destructive impulses only within a group environment and could tolerate them later as part of their own inner world with no need to act them out. It was proved that group analysis could directly help staff and indirectly help the large number of refugees with whom they worked.

P32 *Environmental psychiatry***PERSONALITY DISORDERS OF ALCOHOLICS IN SOCIAL CRISIS**

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**Objectives:** To show that social and economic crisis can affect the frequency and form of personality disorder and depression in alcoholics in Vojvodina Psychiatric Hospital between 1991 and 1993.

**Results:** A significant decrease (from 2472 to 866) in the number of alcoholics hospitalised was registered during this period and the number of psychiatric, neurological and somatic complications decreased proportionately. Alcoholics with personality disorders however rose constantly by 5.5%. The depressive disorders were characterised by more frequent periodic drinking, less delirious states and organic brain disorders, less suicide attempts and less somatic and neurological complications.

**Conclusion:** The author concluded that the intensity of social pathology and social disorders characteristic of this period resulted in a decrease in the prediction and consumption of alcohol, decreased alcoholism and its complications.