

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Atypical presentation of opioid withdrawal, an effect of adulteration

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## Background

Brown sugar is the impure form of di-Acetylmorphine with comparable pharmacological effect and withdrawal symptoms. Recent observation regarding the atypicality of withdrawal symptomatology in opioid dependants stimulated the present study.

## Purpose

To study the abuse pattern and symptom profile in withdrawal state of brown sugar abusers.

## Methodology

Consecutive sampling method was used to collect patients with opioid dependence according to DSM IV TR. Abuse pattern was assessed through semi-structured proforma, withdrawal symptoms through clinical opioid withdrawal scale and also chemical analysis of the drug.

## Results

Among patients 43.396% had seizure, 26.086% developed confusion after seizure and 17.391% experienced psychotic symptoms. Longer duration and larger quantity of substance abuse leads to higher complications. Seizure episodes occurred between 11 to 92 hrs of last intake with a median of 30 hrs. The seizure frequency had strong correlation with daily doses ( $\beta$ -0.697) and frequency ( $r$ -0.527) but is weakly correlated with withdrawal severity ( $r$ -0.425). Chemical analysis of illicit drug revealed that caffeine constitutes greater proportion and opioid like substance a minor quantity.

## Conclusion

Complications like seizure, delirium and psychosis are common in withdrawal. Complication is higher among

high quantity and high frequency users. Delirium and psychosis might be a complication of seizure. Adulteration with toxic substance might be a cause for atypical symptoms which leads to a life threatening condition and warrants preventive care from such illicit drug as opium substitution therapy.

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