



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Neuropsychological functioning of substance abusers in Hong Kong

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Introduction

Extensive research has demonstrated the harmful impact of substance abuse on neuropsychological functions, including impairment in memory, visuospatial abstracting, executive functioning and inhibition.

Objectives

To investigate the effects of substance abuse on neuropsychological functioning of patients in Hong Kong

Methodology

A total of 57 patients (aged 14-39) with substance abuse participated in the study. Each participant received a battery of neuropsychological assessments to measure their general cognitive functioning, verbal memory, visual memory, attention and other executive functions. The results were then compared to the local or foreign normative data by using one-sample t-tests.

Result

It was found that patients with substance abuse had below average performance in verbal memory, visual memory and verbal fluency, as compared to the normative data. In addition, majority of the participants (73.7%) had at least one neuropsychological deficit among the assessed domains.