S92. REASONS TO START SMOKING CANNABIS: A CASE CONTROL-ANALYSIS FROM THE EUGEI STUDY

Edoardo Spinazzola1,2, Victoria Rodriguez1, Diego Quattrone1, Giulia Trotta1, Marta Di Forti1, Robin Murray1
1King’s College London, IoPPN; 2Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King’s College London

Background: Studies have shown that cannabis can increase the risk of psychosis from 1.7 to 3.9 times. Both frequency and potency seem to contribute to differences in the incidence of psychosis across Europe. Despite this evidence, sceptics argue that the association between cannabis use and psychotic disorders could be explained by: (a) subjects who start experiencing psychosis use cannabis as a form of self-medication; (b) the co-morbid effect of other psychotogenic drugs (e.g., amphetamines); or (c) there is a common genetic vulnerability between cannabis use and psychosis. Thus, we aim to analyse: 1) reported reasons to start using cannabis, 2) if these predict differences in patterns of use (frequency and potency), 3) the association of both reasons to start and pattern of use with PRS for Schizophrenia, as it can explain whether patients with a higher genetic burden also start smoking cannabis after experiencing a higher psychological discomfort.

Methods: Using data from the multicentric EUGEI First-Episode Psychosis (FEP) case-control study we examined differences in reasons to start using cannabis between cases and controls. Data were obtained from the Cannabis Experiences Questionnaire modified version. Logistic regression models were used to test if reason to start predicted different patterns of use. Finally, we used regression to test if Polygenic risk scores for schizophrenia (SZ PRS) explained variance in reasons to start.

Results: Up to 85% of controls compared to 68% of FEP started using cannabis because either friends or family were using it. Instead, 18% of cases started using cannabis to feel better compared 5% of controls, reporting the 13.4% of cases and 10.3% of controls having start due to “other reasons”. Regression models showed that being a case was positively associated with starting use in order to feel better (RRR 4.67, z=7.58, p<0.001), remaining significant after adjusting for gender, age, ethnicity or site. We did not find evidence of an association between start using cannabis “to feel better” and potency nor in cases or controls. We found an association for both reasons to start and pattern of use with PRS for Schizophrenia, as it can explain whether patients with a higher genetic burden also start smoking cannabis after experiencing a higher psychological discomfort.

Discussion: These preliminary findings show that a higher proportion of patients with psychosis than controls start using cannabis as a way to make them feel better, although they are a minority. Furthermore, both cases and controls that started smoking “to feel better” presented higher chances to start smoking more frequently. Lastly, PRS did not predict the reasons to start smoking cannabis.

S93. ADHD SYMPTOMS AND DAILY SMOKING AT AGE 15–16 YEARS AND PSYCHOTIC DISORDER IN EARLY ADULTHOOD. FINDINGS FROM THE NORTHERN FINLAND BIRTH COHORT 1986 STUDY

Solja Niemelä1, Teemu Peltonen2, Jari Koskela1, Antti Mustonen1, Jouko Miettunen1, Tuula Hurtig3
1University of Turku, Finland; 2City of Helsinki, Finland; 3University of Oulu, Finland; 4Center for Life Course Health Research, University of Oulu, Finland

Background: Association between smoking with both ADHD(1) and psychosis(2) has been explained by self-medication of ADHD and psychotic symptoms with nicotine use(3). Persons with psychosis also share impairments with persons with ADHD: e.g. inattention is a feature of both of these disorders(3). Aim of this study was to investigate the association between ADHD symptoms and adolescent smoking in relation to psychotic disorder in young adulthood.

Methods: The Northern Finland Birth Cohort 1986 Study includes 99% of all births (n=9432) in the region. Participants with information on ADHD symptoms and daily smoking at age 15–16 years were included (n=5858, 48.7% male; 62.1% of the original study population). ADHD symptoms were evaluated by parents, who filled in the Strengths and Weaknesses of ADHD Symptoms and Normal Behaviors (SWAN) questionnaire. SWAN comprises ADHD symptoms (inattention, hyperactive-impulsive, combined) rated from 3 (far below average) to -3 (far above average). Information on psychiatric diagnoses was collected from four national registries until the end of year 2016. Associations between daily smoking and ADHD symptoms were analyzed using multiple linear regression. Sex, family structure, frequent alcohol intoxication, illicit drug use, and psychotic experiences at age 15–16 years were used as covariates. Analyses were done separately according to the psychiatric diagnosis status at age 30–31 years: no psychiatric diagnosis; any psychiatric diagnosis other than psychosis; any psychotic disorder.

Results: Among participants with psychotic disorder (n=119), daily smokers had higher inattention mean scores compared to non-smokers (-6.5 vs. 0.03, p-value=0.001, effect size (es)=0.8). Among those without psychiatric disorders (n=4618), daily smokers had higher scores in all SWAN domains compared to non-smokers: inattention (-8.9 vs. -3.6, p-value<0.001, es=0.6); hyperactive-impulsive (-13.3 vs. -8.8, p<0.001, es=0.5); and combined (-22.2 vs. -12.5, p<0.001, es=0.6). Respectively, also daily smokers with any psychiatric disorder other than psychosis (n=1121) had higher scores in all SWAN domains: inattention (-7.0 vs. -2.1, p<0.001, es=0.5); hyperactive-impulsive (-11.6 vs. -7.0, p<0.001, es=0.5); and combined (-18.6 vs. 9.1, p<0.001, es=0.5). Within psychosis group, daily smoking associated only with inattention symptoms (standardized beta-coefficient (sbc)=0.38 p=0.004) in the multiple linear regression. Among those without psychiatric disorders, and among those with psychiatric disorders other than psychosis, daily smoking associated with all SWAN symptom domains. The respective figures were for inattention (sbc=-0.14, p-value<0.001; sbc=-0.12, p-value=0.001); for hyperactive-impulsive (sbc=-0.11, p-value<0.001; sbc=-0.12, p-value=0.001); and for combined (sbc=-0.14, p-value<0.001; sbc=-0.13, p-value=0.001).

Discussion: In adolescence, the relationship between inattention problems and daily smoking was remarkable among participants with subsequent psychotic disorder. Vulnerability to smoking among adolescents at risk for psychosis may be explained by self-medication related to inattention problems.

References

S94. PREDICTION OF CANNABIS RELAPSE IN CLINICAL HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS AND RECENT ONSET PSYCHOSIS - PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE PRONIA STUDY

Nora Penzel1, Rachele Sanfelici1, Linda Betz2, Linda Antonucci3, Peter Falkai4, Rachel Upthegrove4, Alessandro Bertolino5, Stefan
S05. DIFFERENCES IN LIFETIME PATTERNS OF PSYCHOSTIMULANTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE PROPORTION OF PATIENTS WITH FIRST-EPISODE PSYCHOSIS ATTRIBUTABLE TO PSYCHOSTIMULANTS USE ACROSS EUROPE

Manuel Duran-Cutillia*, Elisa Rodriguez Toscano¹, David Fruagas¹, Gonzalo Lopez¹, Marta Rapado-Castro¹, Laura Roldan¹, Teresa Sanchez-Gutierrez¹, Ana Calvo¹, Covadonga Martinez-Canaja¹, Celso Arango¹
¹Institute of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañon, School of Medicine, Universidad Complutense, IISGM, CIBERSAM, Spain; ²Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañon, IISGM, CIBERSAM; ³Faculty of Health Sciences, Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (UNIR); ⁴Faculty of Health Sciences, Universidad Internacional de La Rioja

Background: Substance use may be a risk factor for the onset of schizophrenia. Almost 50 % of people with first episode psychosis (FEP) have a history of cannabis or alcohol use. However, research into the proportion of patients with a history of psychostimulants (PS) use is lacking. Cross-sectional studies have shown a link between recreational and regular use of PS and psychotic symptoms, particularly among individuals with PS dependence, that usually revert after drug withdrawal. Nevertheless, some PS users suffer not just spontaneous relapse of the symptoms but also persistent psychosis in the absence of the drug. European data are not available for a large sample of the prevalence of consumption and its relation to the severity of symptoms in FEP. For this purpose, we described the differences in patterns of use of PS current and lifetime between FEP and healthy controls (HC) and their impact on the severity of the clinical symptomatology.

Methods: This analysis is based on data from the case-control study work package of the European network of national schizophrenia networks studying Gene-Environment Interactions (EU-GEI), which took part between 2010 and 2015 across six countries. 901 FEP patients (M age=30.76, SD= 10.51; 38.1% females) and 1235 HC (M=36.15, SD=13.30; 53% females) were included in the present case-control study. Data related to amphetamine use were obtained through CEQEU-GEI. To assess psychopathology the OPerational CRIteria (OPCRIT) system was used.

Group comparisons were made using t-test or Chi square, and ANCOVA or logistic regression controlling for age, sex and cannabis use when appropriate.

Results: FEP subjects displayed a trend for higher use of PS in the last year (B=0.18, p= 0.055: 81 (9%) FEP and 56 (4.5%) and a significant higher lifetime use (Chi2= 37.33, p<0.001: 196 (21.8%) FEP and 149 (12.1%) HC) than HC, but the frequency of PS use did not differ between groups. Lifetime FEP PS-users showed higher scores, thus is, more severe symptoms in the Mania (t = -3.69, p = 0.001) and the general (t = -3.47, p = 0.001) factors compared to FEP non-PS-users. Current FEP PS-users showed higher scores in the Mania factor (t = -2.52, p = 0.012) than FEP non-PS-users. However, these results were not significant when the comparisons were adjusted for age, sex and cannabis use. FEP PS-users showed lower scores than the non-users in the negative factor both in the last year (t = 2.10, p = 0.038 and: F1,866= 4.27, p = 0.039 when adjusted for age, sex and cannabis use) and lifetime (t = 1.99, p = 0.046 and F1,869= 1.37, p = 0.243 when adjusted for age, sex and cannabis use).

Discussion: As previous studies, we confirmed the higher rates of PS use in FEP than HC in a European study with a big sample. PS use was related to severity of clinical symptomatology. PS-users presented more severe general symptoms and, specifically, in the mania factor. Otherwise, FEP non-PS-user showed higher scores in the negative factor which might be related to the usual course of the psychosis without exposure to PS use.
Author/s:
Penzel, N; Sanfelici, R; Betz, L; Antonucci, L; Falkai, P; Upthegrove, R; Bertolino, A; Borgwardt, S; Brambilla, P; Lencer, R; Meisenzahl, E; Ruhrmann, S; Salokangas, RKR; Pantelis, C; Schultze-Lutter, F; Wood, S; Koutsouleris, N; Kambeitz, J

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