

Presentation,

Alcohol use and alcohol-use disorders among older adults in Germany: a literature
17th Conference of the European Association of Substance Abuse Research (EASAR),
15th-18th May

Abstract

Objectives The aim of the paper is to examine the association of substance use (SU) and substance use disorders (SUD) on transitions of cannabis use (CU) and disorders (CUD) from initiation to cessation or relapse in the general population.

Methods A systematic review has been conducted between 09-10/13 in search for peer-reviewed publications of data from population based longitudinal studies on associations between any SU and SUD measures, excluding cannabis, at baseline and CU/CUD outcomes at follow-up over a time frame of at least 6 months. The search procedure is based on the PRISMA-statement (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, & Altman, 2009) and included the databases Web of Knowledge, Scirus and PubMed.

Results Eighteen studies have been included in the review, covering separate information for nicotine, alcohol and 'illicit substances'. The majority of publications covers CUD incidence (N= 10) or use initiation (N = 5). Only five publications gave information on other transitions such as use persistence, high risk use, cessation and CUD relapse. NU and AU were consistently found to be risk factors for CU initiation. There is convincing evidence for NU and less consistent for AU categories to be associated with CUD incidence.

Discussions Information on substances others than nicotine and alcohol tend to be grouped into one category of 'illicit substances', complicating the evaluation of their impact. Little is known on the role of SU and SUD in the further course of CU and CUD.

Conclusions There is a need for research on the role of cross-substance use in the course of CU/CUD.