Abstract

There exists a body of evidence on the importance of impulsivity as a personality trait in drug addictions. However, the increasing importance of recognizing behavioral addictions forces to conduct a review of the current research and publications in order to assess whether behavioral addictions could be included in the current drug addiction models, and whether impulsivity as a character trait also plays an important role in behavioral addictions. This paper is based on a review of recent research and publications of the addiction model where impulsivity plays an important role as an analysis variable. Every day appear an increasing number of publications and researches analyzing the extent of impulsivity to behavioral addictions. From this, could be assumed the important role of impulsivity, often related to sensation seeking behaviors, and being also associated to other pathologies where a whole differentiation is difficult. In conclusion, we posit that the same addiction model applied to drugs, where impulsivity is the anteroom of behavioral addiction, could be applied to behavioral addictions themselves. However, what actually constitutes use, abuse and addiction, and the actual role of impulsivity, remains open to discussion.

Keywords

Addiction, behavioral addiction, impulsivity, neurobiology of addiction, sensation-seeking