

AS10-03 - TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCE USING A TELE-PSYCHIATRY MODEL

H.A.Schwager

Tele Behavioral Medicine Associates, Willow, AK, USA

Introduction: Opioid dependence has increased greater than 150% from 1965-2008. Almost 2 Million Americans are currently opioid dependent. Approximately 4.4 million teenagers and adults have used opioid prescription painkillers for nonmedical purposes. Greater than 75% of opioid dependent patients in the U.S. go untreated. Greater than 60 % of opioid dependent patients don't seek treatment due to lack of accessibility of treatment centers or programs.

Method: 100 opioid dependent patients (illicit street and iatrogenic) volunteered and entered a "TELE-PSYCHIATRY MODEL" for treatment of their dependence (age range 19, - 61. 58 males, 42 females). Utilizing the Bupernorphen protocol, all patients were interviewed, examined, induced, and regularly followed, ALL utilizing SECURE VIDEOCONFERENCE interactive treatment methodologies. No in-person contact was made with any patients.

Results: 2 patients dropped out, 98 remain in treatment, and opioid free after a 7 month average. All patients found the Tele Psychiatry model to be acceptable, effective and preferable.