

P01-46

CHRONIC CANNABIS USE IN MOROCCO

H. Hami¹, F.-Z. Azzaoui², A. Mokhtari¹, A. Soulaymani¹, S. Skalli³, R. Soulaymani³

¹Laboratory of Genetic and Biometry, Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Ibn Tofail University, ²Equip of Clinical and Cognitive Neurosciences and Health, Laboratory of Biology and Health, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra,

³Morocco Poison Control Center, Rabat, Morocco

Introduction: In Morocco, as in other countries, the cannabis consumption by a great number of the population remains worrisome, in terms of its effects on "mental and physical" health and its social repercussions.

Objectives and aims: To determine the profile of the people poisoned by cannabis in Morocco in order to identify individuals and groups at high risk.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted on chronic cannabis poisoning cases notified between 2000 and 2008 in the Morocco Poison Control Center.

Results: During the study period, three hundred and one regular users of cannabis (28 women and 273 men) were poisoned, constituting 34 cases on average per year. The clinical symptoms presented by victims are different, depending on the quantity of inhaled and absorbed psychoactive substances (especially THC) and the frequency and method of use. The average age of victims is 22 years. Among the 225 patients for whom the evolution is known, a 23-year-old man died. The rest of the patients' condition has improved under gut decontamination.

Conclusions: The influence of consumption of the increasingly high doses of cannabis on the quality of life of young people justifies a public information, particularly young people for better prevention of using of this psychoactive product.