

Addictive Disorders and Alcoholism

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Evidence of brain damage in chronic ketamine users – A brain imaging study

Background & Objectives: The objectives of this study were to ascertain the pattern of grey and white matter volume reduction and regional metabolic and activation abnormalities in chronic ketamine users, and to evaluate the correlations between these brain abnormalities and cognitive impairments in chronic ketamine users in Hong Kong.

Design: The design was a cross-sectional observational study.

Setting: Counselling Centre for Psychotropic Substance Abusers in Hong Kong was taken as a setting for this study.

Participants: 136 participants were recruited from October 2011 to April 2014. The participants were divided into two groups: Ketamine users (79) and healthy controls (57).

Main Outcome Measures: Psychiatric assessments included screening with self-rating questionnaires and face-to-face interviews. All of the participants completed a detailed cognitive battery that covered general intelligence, verbal and visual memory, executive functions, motor speed and language. All of the participants underwent magnetic resonance imaging of the brain.

Results:



Biography

Wai Kwong Tang was appointed as Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2011. His main research areas are Addictions and Neuropsychiatry in Stroke. He has published over 100 papers in renowned journals, and has also contributed to the peer review of 40 journals. He has secured over 20 major competitive research grants. He has served on the editorial boards of five scientific journals. He was also a recipient of the Young Researcher Award in 2007, awarded by the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

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