

FILE DOWNLOAD

24.com Home | Mail | Blogs | Albums | Classifieds | 24.com sites | Make Health24.com your homepage

Subscribe to our newsletters | Win!



Early signs of pregnancy

If you suspect you might be pregnant, check out these early signs of pregnancy.

Heartburn quiz

Take this quiz to find out whether you are eating correctly to prevent heartburn.

- Spa vouchers
- R 1000 a month
- 3 X R 1 000 cash prizes



Health News | Conditions A-Z | Your Body | Healthy Lifestyle | Diet & Nutrition | Fitness | Sex | Experts | Community | Tests & Tools | Medical Schemes | Win!

YOU ARE IN > News > Addiction/Substance abuse

Weekly Poll

Would you stick with your girlfriend if she cheated on you with another girl?

- Yes – that scenario is my favourite fantasy
- Not sure, I'd want to know why
- No – cheating is cheating
- No – I want to be with someone who wants to be with ME
- This has happened to me

SUBMIT

General Newsletter

Sign up for our newsletter to get all the latest Health news

email address

SUBMIT

Drug-abusers have difficulty recognising negative emotions

Last updated: Friday, February 04, 2011

Print

University of Granada scientists have been the first to analyse the relation between drug abuse and recognition of basic emotions (happiness, surprise, wrath, fear, sadness and disgust) by drug-abusers. Thus, the study revealed that drug-abusers have difficulty to identify negative emotions by their facial expression: wrath, disgust, fear and sadness.

Further, regular abuse of alcohol, cannabis and cocaine usually affects abusers' fluency and decision-making. Consuming cannabis and cocaine negatively affects work memory and reasoning. Similarly, cocaine abuse is associated to alterations in inhibition.

For the purpose of this study, researchers carried out a neuropsychological evaluation (with neurocognitive evaluation and emotional processing tests) out of a total of 123 polysubstance abusers and 67 no-drug users with similar social and demographical variables (age and schooling).

A sample including polysubstance-abusers

The target population were individuals who consumed drugs as cocaine, cannabis, heroin, alcohol, MDMA and methamphetamine, and who were enrolled in two rehabilitation projects *Proyecto Hombre* and *Cortijo Buenos Aires* in the province of Granada.

The main author of this research was **María José Fernández Serrano** –supervised by professors **Miguel Pérez García** and **Antonio Javier Verdejo García**– of the Department of Personality and Psychological Treatment and Evaluation, **University of Granada**.

The study revealed that 70% of drug abusers presented some type of neuropsychological deterioration, regardless the type of substance consumed. Deterioration was registered in major degree in the working memory, and in fluency, flexibility, planning, multitask ability and interference.

Fernández Serrano thinks that the results obtained *"should be employed to develop political and social policies aimed at promoting adequate rehab programs adapted to the neuropsychological profile of drug-abusers"*.

The research conducted at the **University of Granada** has been the first to study the prevalence of psychological deterioration in drug-abusers enrolled in therapeutic communities. Further, although other studies have been conducted on emotional recognition by drug users, they were focused on recognition as a unit process.

However, the scientists from Granada have analysed for the first time the relation between drug abuse and recognition of basic emotions (happiness, surprise, wrath, fear, sadness and disgust).

(EurekAlert, January 2011)

Read more:

- [My addiction journey](#)
- [Spotlight on substance abuse](#)
- [Are you a codependent drug addict?](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Enhorabuena

Has ganado nuestro premio horario. Haz clic en el botón "Aceptar" para reclamarlo antes de que se pase el tiempo.

Aceptar Cancelar

Consultar detalles

Today's top stories

- [Obesity has doubled since 1980](#)
- [Addicts have trouble with emotions](#)
- [Playful dads = better husbands](#)
- [Commercialised health too costly](#)
- [Demanding after-school jobs problematic](#)
- [Autistic adults judgemental](#)
- [Athletes warned against supplements](#)
- [Early puberty low osteoporosis risk](#)

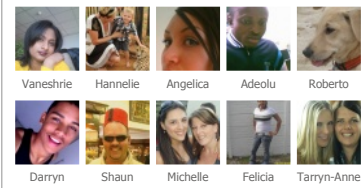
Búscanos en Facebook



Health24

Me gusta

A 4,259 personas les gusta **Health24**.



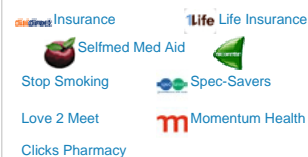
Plug-in social de Facebook

Get a Quote

Looking for a medical scheme? Get a quote today



Sponsored links



Your Body

Blogs

People are blogging about Health