

Chapter 8 Culture and pharmacology: drugs, alcohol and tobacco

CLINICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

In drug treatment

- 1 What factors are contributing towards the *total drug effect*? The attributes of:
 - a the drug itself?
 - b the patient?
 - c the prescriber?
 - d the micro-context?
 - e the macro-context?

The placebo effect

- 2 To what extent is there a *placebo* element in:
 - a drug treatment?
 - b surgical or other treatment?
 - c hospital tests?
 - d the relationship with the health professional?

Psychological dependence

- 3 What *symbolic role* does the drug or other treatment play in the patient's:
 - a daily activities?
 - b self-image?
 - c social relationships?
 - d relationships with health professionals?
- 4 Does the patient feel he/she has *control* over the drug treatment (its dosage, time of ingestion, effects on self or others) or not?
- 5 Is the drug taken for its effect on:
 - a the patient?
 - b their relationships with other people?

Physical addiction

- 6 Does the patient belong to an *addict subculture*?
- 7 If so, what are its values and standards of behaviour?
- 8 How does the patient view:
 - a other addicts?
 - b non-addicts?
- 9 If there is evidence of *stereotyping* in 8, how does this affect the treatment of the patient's addiction?
- 10 In intravenous drug abuse, do the addicts practice 'needle sharing' among themselves?

Alcoholism

- 11 In the patient's socio-cultural milieu, what *values* govern:
 - a normal drinking?
 - b abnormal drinking?

- 12 In *normal drinking*, what are the rules about:
- a who is allowed to drink (age, sex, ethnicity, class)?
 - b in whose company drinking is allowed to take place?
 - c what can be drunk?
 - d at what times can drinking take place?
 - e in what settings can drinking take place?
 - f the relation of drinking to religious and social festivals?
- 13 What does the alcohol symbolize to the drinker? What *symbolic role* does it play in the drinker's:
- a daily activities?
 - b self-image?
 - c social relationships?
 - d relationships with health professionals?

Tobacco use

- 14 What *symbolic role* does cigarette smoking play in the patient's:
- a daily activities?
 - b self-image?
 - c social relationships?