

## Colour Differences in Art Work of People Addicted to Alcohol and Non-alcohol Drugs



ČERMÁK, B.

Červený Dvůr Psychiatric Hospital, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

**Citation:** Čermák, B. (2011). Rozdíly v barevnosti výtvarných prací osob závislých na alkoholu a závislých na nealkoholových drogách. *Adiktologie*, (11)4, 216–224.

**BACKGROUND:** Research regarding the art production of patients addicted to alcohol and non-alcohol drugs focuses on the quality of execution; the numbers of certain symbols are looked into only sporadically. No quantitative research concerned with the use of the basic colours of the spectrum has been presented yet (according to the available sources).

**AIMS:** This work is an attempt to verify the hypothesis that quantitative research into art production is possible. We also tried to determine whether the study sample may show differences in the use of colours between the group being treated for alcohol dependency and the group of non-alcohol drug users. In addition, we sought to determine whether there was a difference between female and male patients in their use of colours. **SAMPLE/DATA:** We chose the first paintings created by all the patients immediately after their entering the therapeutic process (art therapy) at one of the departments in the current year. **METHODS:** Paintings of the same subject matter (as assigned) and for-

mat are painted on the same surface using the same technique. They are then scanned under the same light conditions, digitalised using the RGB system and modified by means of the Python 2.5 program in order to obtain the number of pixels for each of the three colours. Statistically, the results were processed using the PAST 05.02 program.

**RESULTS:** a) Quantitative methods can also be used to evaluate the artistic production of addicted patients. b) In their art work, the patients addicted to alcohol used statistically significantly more red than the patients addicted to non-alcohol drugs. c) Gender differences in the use of specific colours (RGB) were not statistically significant in the study sample. **CONCLUSIONS:** The results show that the non-verbal expressions of people addicted to alcohol are different in certain aspects from those of people addicted to drugs other than alcohol. Why it is so and what areas of neuronal networks may be responsible for these differences could be the subject of further examination.

**KEY WORDS:** ART THERAPY – QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH – ALCOHOL – NON-ALCOHOL DRUGS – PHENOMENAL SPACE – COLOUR – RGB – HISTOGRAM

Submitted: 2 / AUGUST / 2011

Accepted: 25 / NOVEMBER / 2011

Address for correspondence: Bedřich Čermák / bcermak@volny.cz / Červený Dvůr Psychiatric Hospital, Červený Dvůr 1, 381 01 Český Krumlov, Czech Republic