

Evidence-Based Medicine and Drug Policy



OKRUHLICA, L.

Centre for Treatment of Drug Dependencies, Bratislava, Slovakia

Citation: Okruhlica, L. Medicína založená na dôkazoch a drogová politika. *Adiktologie* (9)1, 36–43.

SUMMARY: *In spite of the fact that the modern drug control policy has referred to negative health consequences since its very beginning, not all the political decisions were always primarily based on medical findings. Drug addiction medicine has collected enough evidence on the biological basis of dependence on psychoactive substances (drugs) in the last twenty years. The evidence-based medicine methodology sets limits on the possible interpretations of findings established by natural sciences and potential relativistic consideration of such findings as a result of social, cultural, and economic influences. In addition to presenting the advancement of scientific knowledge which contributed to the expansion of the scientific base of the medical model of addiction as a disease, the article also discusses the role of the social sciences. If politicians are responsible for their political decisions, it does not mean that they can ignore, or bias, the findings of drug addiction medicine based on scientific evidence. They should recognise that scientific progress limits the boundaries within which they can exercise their politically correct manoeuvring.*

KEY WORDS: DRUG DEPENDENCE – EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE – POLITICS

Submitted: 05 / OCTOBER / 2008

Accepted: 19 / JANUARY / 2009

Address for correspondence: Lubomír Okruhlica, MD / okruhlica@cpldz.sk / Centre for Treatment of Drug Dependencies, Hraničná 2, 821 05 Bratislava, Slovakia