Opium Syrup Distribution, Limitation and Challenges

Mostafa Dahrmardehei,1 Raheleh Rafaeiez2

1. Department of Surgery, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, Zahedan, Iran
2. General physician, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, Zahedan, Iran

Addiction is one of dilemmas in the current society. Formal statistics report of 2 million addict people in the country. Among important activities for addiction prevention and therapy is implementation of maintenance treatment. Maintenance treatments are done through Methadone, Buprenorphine and tincture-opium. Opium tincture is a solution of 10 g morphine in one litter liquid containing 20% alcohol. The first report about using this medicine has been in 1994, in French in associated with successful therapy of 18 patients. A study in Australia, in 2004, proposed detoxification with opium tincture in 15 migrated Vietnamese, in high dosage for therapy. In Iran, since 1384 many researches were done, which 34% responded the therapy appropriately; and in 1387, 130 people reached final treatment.

Since 2011, distribution of tincture-opium was begun. However, it was not welcomed by patients. The aim of current study is investigating reasons of patients’ non-tendency to use tincture-opium from addiction therapists’ point of view in the province. In this descriptive study, to collect data the physicians of 15 qualified centers received a checklist and the following results were obtained: positive morphine test (66%), high tariff (40%), liquidity (26%), bitter taste (20%), bad and sharp smell (13%), having alcohol (13%), non-mitigation of physical signs (6%), nausea and vomiting (6%).

For most patients having negative morphine test is very important. Most addicts sell by retail to get narcotic substances and opium is available for them in the black market. Good quality, any legal forbid to obtain it, and breaking off relations with smugglers are some opium tincture advantages. Smugglers didn’t always have the desired substances of addict so, after a while provide stimulants.

Its liquidity makes possible the easiness of medicine measurement per cubic centimeter and reduction process. Patients have not accepted Tincture-opium as a medicine, but when they believe in it as a medicine will accept it as other bitter medicines. The medicine is offered in a clinical center until the patient feels using tincture-opium is different from opium consumption. Leaching in alcohol is one of methods of this herbal medicine preparation. Alcohol extracts plant compounds, and by making tincture-opium the medicine can be kept for 2 years. Discontent of non-decrease of physical signs is due to the patient’s mind involvement with his/her bodily signs.

The patient considers medicine equal to therapy and insists on quick of its effectiveness. This is a sign of medicine orientation in addiction therapy and is communicated from therapist to patient. The main part of therapy is non-pharmacological (family therapy, group therapy, and behavior therapy) treatment. Adjusting therapist attitudes should not be forgotten.

Changing the name of medicine, lowering costs, and spread informing and training the therapist can be influential in the plan acceptance. Already, so many patients have been treated with opium tincture. A group of patients belong to congress 60, which before opium tincture have tried other ways for treating addiction. Congress 60 by creating province branches can be effective in the plan progress.

Corresponding author: rahele_rafaei@yahoo.com

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References