Methamphetamine: The Current Status of Treatment Knowledge

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- UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
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Methamphetamine





What Is Methamphetamine?

 Powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system

Made easily in clandestine labs with OTC ingredients

Methamphetamine Addiction

The brains of people addicted

to Methamphetamine are

different than those of

Chronic Amphetamine Causes Lasting Changes

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MA Treatment Issues

- Acute MA Overdose
- Acute MA Psychosis
- MA "Withdrawal"
- Initiating MA Abstinence
- MA Relapse Prevention
- Protracted Cognitive Impairment and Symptoms of Paranoia

Acute MA Overdose

- Slowing of Cardiac Conduction
- Ventricular Irritability
- Hypertensive Episode
- Hyperpyrexic Episode
- CNS Seizures and Anoxia

Acute MA Psychosis

- Extreme Paranoid Ideation
- Well Formed Delusions
- Hypersensitivity to Environmental Stimuli
- Stereotyped Behavior "Tweaking"
- Panic, Extreme Fearfulness
- High Potential for Violence

Treatment of MA Psychosis

- Typical ER Protocol for MA Psychosis
 - Haloperidol 5mg
 - Clonazepam 1 mg
 - Cogentin 1 mg
 - Quiet, Dimly Lit Room
 - Restraints

MA "Withdrawal"

- Depression
- Fatigue
- Anxiety
- Anergia

- Paranoia
- Cognitive Impairment
- Agitation
- Confusion

• Duration: 2 Days - 2 Weeks



Division of Treatment Research & Development

Pharmacotherapies Planned for Clinical Trials

- Ondansetron
- Olanzepine
- Bupropion
- Selegline
- Sertraline

Treatment of MA "Withdrawal"

- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
 - No Pharmacotherapy Available
 - Positive, Reassuring Context
 - Directive, Behavioral Intervention
 - Educate Regarding Time Course of Symptom Remission
 - Recommend Sleep and Nutrition
 - Low Stimulation
 - Acknowledge Paranoia, Depression

Initiating MA Abstinence

- Key Clinical Issues
 - Depression
 - Cognitive Impairment
 - Continuing Paranoia
 - Anhedonia
 - Behavioral/Functional Impairment
 - Hypersexuality
 - Conditioned Cues
 - Irritability/Violence

Initiating MA Abstinence

- Key Elements of Treatment
 - Structure
 - Information in Understandable Form
 - Family Support
 - Positive Reinforcement
 - 12-Step Participation
- No Pharmacologic Agent Currently Available

The CSAT Methamphetamine Treatment Project



Project Goals:

- To study the clinical effectiveness of the Matrix Model
- To compare the effectiveness of the Matrix model to other locally available outpatient treatments
- To establish the cost and cost effectiveness of the Matrix model compared to other outpatient treatments
- To explore the replicability of the Matrix model and challenges involved in technology transfer

Baseline Demographics (April 1999 – April 2001)

Sample size (n)	931
Age (mean)	32.8 years
Education (mean)	12.2 years
Monthly income (mean)	\$ 1024
Years of Meth use (mean)	7.7 years

Gender Distribution of Participants



Route of Methamphetamine Administration



Route of Administration

Methamphetamine Use



Marijuana Use



Alcohol Use



Days Paid for Work in Past 30



Total Income (Past 30 days) of Participants

