



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Terminology



- ❑ **Substance intoxication (acute):** Reversible physiological and behavioural changes due to recent exposure to psychoactive substance
- ❑ **Substance abuse/ misuse:** Maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to clinically significant impairment:
 - ❑ Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major obligations
 - ❑ Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous (e.g. driving)
 - ❑ Recurrent substance-related legal problems
 - ❑ Continued use despite interference with social or interpersonal function

Terminology cont...



- **Dependence Syndrome:** Maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to clinically significant impairment:
 - ▣ Craving – Persistent desire/ compulsion to take substance
 - ▣ Difficulty in controlling use – Onset, termination, level and length
 - ▣ Tolerance – Need for increased amount to achieve intoxication
 - ▣ Withdrawal – When reducing/ ceasing substance use
 - ▣ Neglect – Important interests/activities given up or reduced
 - ▣ Ignorance of harm – Continued use despite physical/psychological problem caused by substance
- **Substance withdrawal:** Substance-specific syndrome that develops following cessation of or reduction in dosage of regularly used substances

Types of Substances

- Include:

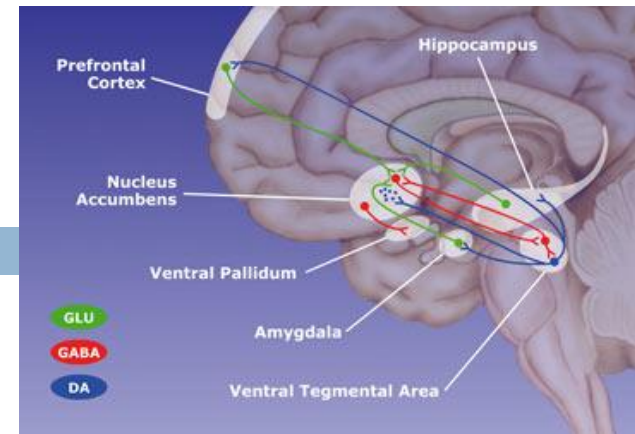
- Nicotine (tobacco)
- Alcohol
- Opioids (incl. morphine, heroin, codeine)
- Cocaine ('smack')
- Cannabis ('marijuana')
- Amphetamines (methamphetamine/ 'speed'/ 'ice')
- Hallucinogens (LSD, MDMA/ 'ecstasy')
- Phencyclidine (PCP/ 'angel dust')



Types of substances cont...

- "Club Drugs"
 - ▣ MDMA ('Ecstasy' / 'X' / 'E')
 - ▣ Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB, /'G' /'Liquid Ecstasy')
 - ▣ Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol [TM] / 'Roofies' / 'Rope' / 'The Forget Pill')
 - ▣ Ketamine ('Special K' / 'Kit-Kat')
 - ▣ Methamphetamine ('speed' / 'meth' / 'chalk' / 'ice' / 'crystal')
- Sex (pornography), eating, shopping, gambling, working etc

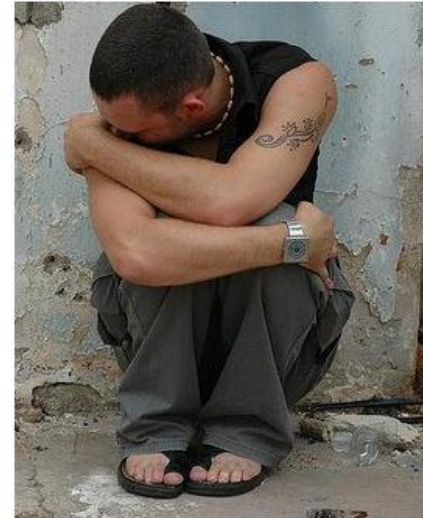
Molecular Basis



- In the brain there is a “reward circuit” which involves several neurotransmitters (incl. dopamine, serotonin) maintained in a very fine balance
- Substances of addiction over stimulate the reward circuit (e.g. various methods to increase dopamine)
- The brain adapts by producing less NT or reducing the number of receptors in the reward circuit. This reduces the NT’s impact
- Reduced ability of drug-user to enjoy the

Negative effects of substance use

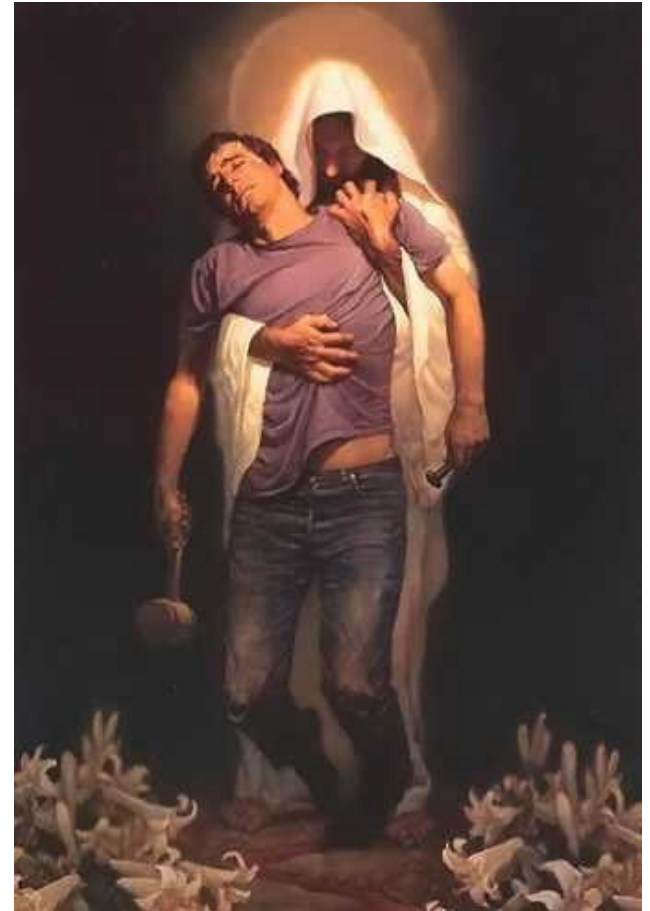
- Acute
 - ▣ Crime, violence, lust
 - ▣ Physical injury, Overdose
 - ▣ Death
- Chronic
 - ▣ Physical – Every body organ and system
 - ▣ Social, personal, legal, financial implications
 - ▣ Death



.... And of course 'SPIRITUAL' consequences

Causes/ Risk factors

- Individual factors
 - ▣ Age
 - ▣ Gender
 - ▣ Personality
 - ▣ Family background (inheritance)
- External factors
 - ▣ Culture
 - ▣ Finance
 - ▣ Availability
 - ▣ Advertising
- Inherited factors



Reason for using drugs

- You tell me ???
 - ▣ Legitimate – Chronic pain, palliation
 - ▣ Escape from reality
 - ▣ Experimentation
 - ▣ Peer pressure



What does the Bible say

- “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17





DISCUSSION AND
QUESTIONS???

St Mark's Sunday School – Year 11