

## OPINION

By

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**About:** Dissertation on the topic: "**Drug-addicted patients - oral health and management**" for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Therapeutic Dentistry", professional field 7.2. Dental medicine 7. Health and sports.

**Author:** Dr. Simeon Zdravkov Chokanov, PhD student in full-time education at the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Oral Pathology of the FDM, MU-Varna.

**Supervisor:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asya Krasteva-Panova, MD

The dissertation is written on 145 standard pages and includes 27 tables, 33 figures. Structurally, the proportional relations between the main parts of the dissertation are observed.

**The literature** includes 218 sources, of which 8 in Cyrillic and 210 in Latin.

Drug addicts are a large enough part of society and as such they are potential patients of dentists. Drug use and abuse has increased in recent years and is a socially significant problem worldwide. The problem, in addition to general somatic symptoms and syndromes, is associated with a variety of mostly severe manifestations of the oral mucosa and specific changes in the hard tooth tissues. The identification, classification of these conditions and the development of an algorithm for the correct approach of dentists in the management of oral and somatic manifestations during the treatment of such patients is insufficiently well studied and described in the available literature. In this sense, I consider the topic well chosen.

**Literature review:** The literature review consistently and systematically presents the accumulated knowledge about the types of narcotic substances and their use.

Attention is drawn to the known data on the presence of chronic viral infections in patients using drugs

The available data on deteriorating oral health in this group of patients, as well as the data on a single protocol for their recognition and the method of oral and dental treatment,



have been clarified in sufficient detail. The literature review ends with a brief analysis of the unresolved problems of the author.

**The aim** formulated in this way has **five tasks** appropriately selected.

**Materials:** The material for all five tasks is sufficient, it is carefully selected according to strict indicators and is correctly distributed. The processing methods are well thought out and scientifically sound.

The statistical methods are precisely and skillfully selected for processing the collected material.

**Results and discussion:** The results of all four tasks have been thoroughly tested.

Under **the first task**, the author performs a comprehensive assessment of oral health in drug addicts. The author found a higher incidence of dental caries, *C. albicans* and *St. mutans* in a large proportion of drug addicts, manifestations of periodontal disease, as well as higher values of PBI.

The parameters of saliva are in pathological values, and halitosis is found in parallel with a high percentage of patients with xerostomia.

**The second task** aims to identify risk factors in drug addicts and their relationship with oral pathology. Among the social factors is the fact that most of the respondents are unemployed and of low social status

**The third task** is to determine the relationship between changes in the oral cavity and the use of various drugs. No specific specific changes related to the use of a narcotic substance have been identified. Analytically, the author believes that this is due to the fact that most of the subjects take a bunch of drugs that lead to non-specific changes in their periodontal and carious status.

**The fourth task** aims to establish the impact of dental status on the quality of life of drug addicts. According to the doctoral student, there is a direct connection between the two studied parameters. It is worth noting that not only the diagnosed diseases have an adverse effect on the quality of life, either local or with their general manifestations, but also due to the fact that due to opiate-masked pain, oral diseases remain unnoticed or untreated for a long time. . Last but not least, there is a link between impaired masticatory and aesthetic function and healthy eating and lifestyle.

**The fifth task** is to compile an algorithm for a comprehensive dental approach in the treatment of drug addicts and a protocol for the behavior of dentists.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, located at the bottom right of the page.

In my opinion, the creation of this algorithm is the most valuable contribution of the scientific development given to me for the preparation of an opinion. Such an algorithm should be made available to dental practitioners and would be a useful tool in everyday clinical practice.

**Contribution:** I consider the self-assessment of the contributions from the developed scientific work to be correct, which the author unites in 4 originals and 3 scientific-applied

The dissertation work was carried out entirely by the doctoral student under the guidance of his supervisor. In connection with his dissertation, the author has promoted his research in 2 full-text publications, 1 scientific report and 2 scientific communications.

The abstract is properly structured, well illustrated and corresponds to the individual sections of the development. I believe that it is presented in the appropriate volume required by the rules set out in the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of MU Varna, as well as in relation to the full volume of scientific research.

There are no omissions in the documentation attached by Dr. Simeon Zdravkov Chokanov.

**Recommendations:** I would like to make the following recommendations to the PhD student:

1. To pay attention to the exact spelling and abbreviation of the names of many of the mentioned bacteria and fungi. There is a precise scientific nomenclature by which this is done. For example, Streptococcus Mutans is abbreviated St. Mutans, not Str.Mutans. In this spirit, many examples can be given throughout the dissertation.

2. I would like to advise the doctoral student to work towards more accurate expression.

Both remarks do not reduce the semantic value of the scientific work and for this reason do not change my final assessment.

**Conclusion:**

The dissertation of Dr. Simeon Zdravkov Chokanov is complete and complete and represents his own contribution to science. The scientific work, as well as the publications on the topic, show that the doctoral student has theoretical knowledge of the treated problem and skills for independent research. Good professional skills, in-depth knowledge are evident throughout the course of scientific development, in which theoretical literature data, own results and their interpretation are arranged and the most important conclusions are drawn. In this way and in this sense, I believe that the goal has



been achieved

The presented results and conclusion are of original and applied nature.

In my opinion, Dr. Chokanov and his dissertation have the necessary merits and deserve to be evaluated positively, and therefore, I will vote with a resounding "Yes" for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Simeon Chokanov and I recommend the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote positively for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Simeon Zdarvokov Chokanov in the scientific specialty "Therapeutic Dentistry"

11.04.2022

Varna

Signature:

( Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Dimitrova Doichinova,

PhD )