

Editorial

Addictions and Affective Neuroscience

Tobacco, alcohol, and drug addiction rates increase both in Turkey and the world. As others, technology and gambling addictions give psychological, sociological and economic harm to individual, family, and society.

The number of studies regarding addiction has increased significantly. Especially, internet addiction has become a more important challenge.

Estonian neuroscientist Jaak Pankseep (1943-2017) who is the founder of affective neuroscience had focused on the basis of addiction via his studies searching the basis of consciousness. He tried to find evidences of earlier development of subcortical emotional systems compared to cortical cognitive systems and claimed that this process was under genetic control. Parallel to his findings, Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales (ANPS) were formed and a novel neurodevelopmental approach to personality had started. According to this approach, personality develops by the effects of early life experiences on subcortical basic affective systems. Following studies have proved the reality and validity of ANPS. Since culture specific findings are observed, intercultural affective neuroscience study area has started (1, 2).

Individual differences in affective tendencies have an important role on the management of diseases. In the studies regarding internet addiction, individual differences in ANPS have been evaluated for developing effective treatment approach and the efficacy of ANPS has been proved one more time (3).

As a new study area intercultural affective neuroscience aims searching the effect of culture on affective systems. Further studies are needed to be performed for evaluating the relation between cultures and addictions. Intercultural differences are expected to be related with the level of affective addiction, but neurobiologic molecular mechanisms of this relation should be studied in the future.

References

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