

Treatment of crack-cocaine dependence in the Netherlands

Peter Blanken

**Parnassia Addiction Research Centre (PARC)
Brijder Addiction Treatment**

Brijder

Internationale Fachtagung
Crack in deutschen Großstädten – von der Forschung zu praktischen Entscheidungen
Frankfurt/Main – 4 Oktober 2022

PARC
Parnassia Addiction Research Centre

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conflict of interest Peter Blanken

Interest	Name of organization
Grants	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS) Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)
Honoraria	Novartis (advise on Contingency Management)
Advisory board/ consultant	n.a.

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overview of presentation

- background
- psychosocial treatment for stimulant use disorders – contingency management
 - recommendations from Dutch Multidisciplinary Guideline
- pharmacological treatment for stimulant use disorders – sustained-release dexamphetamine: **CATCH** & **CATCH 2.0**
 - recommendations from Dutch Multidisciplinary Guideline
- conclusions

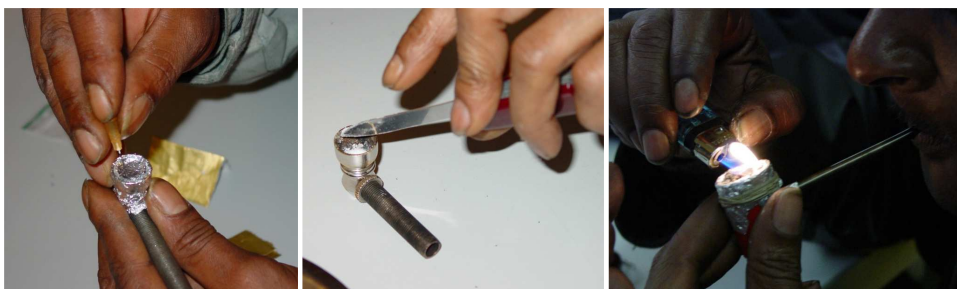
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background

- cocaine use and cocaine treatment demand in the Netherlands
- good medical practice: "primum non nocere" – **cure** ⇒ **care**
- modest efficacy of psychosocial treatment – contingency management as an exception
- no proven effective medications
agonist medications most promising:
uncontrolled, potentially harmful use ⇔
controlled, medical, supervised, relatively safe use

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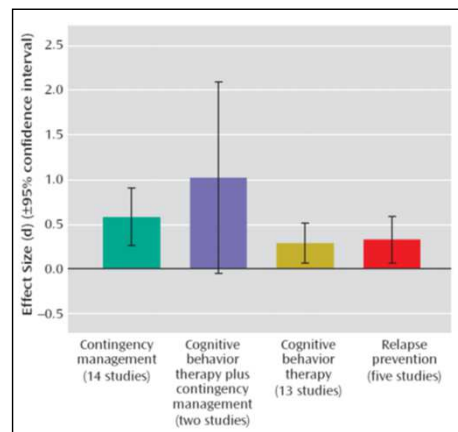
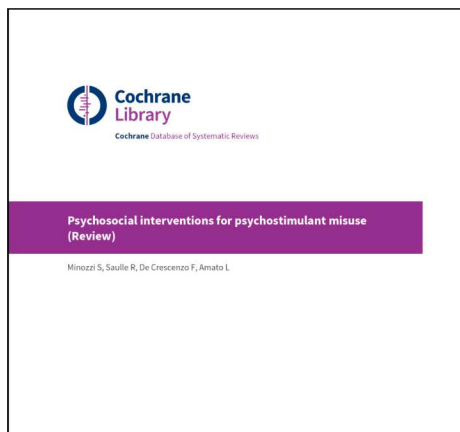
psychosocial interventions for cocaine



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rationale

- *add on* intervention(s) to reduce cocaine use?
- effective pharmacotherapy ~ dexamfetamine-SR
- psychosocial interventions ?



Minozzi et al. 2016 Cochrane; Dutra et al. 2008 American Journal Psychiatry

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rationale

- *add on* intervention(s) to reduce cocaine use?
- effective pharmacotherapy ~ dexamfetamine-SR
- psychosocial interventions ?

results in favour of treatments with some form of contingency management in respect to both reducing drop outs and lowering cocaine use

cognitive behavior therapy and relapse prevention evidence
low-moderate effect sizes
($d = 0.28$ and $d = 0.32$, resp.)

treatments using contingency management produced moderate-high effect sizes ($d = 0.58$)

➔ **contingency management**

Minozzi et al. 2016 Cochrane; Dutra et al. 2008 American Journal Psychiatry

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cocaine contingency management objectives & design



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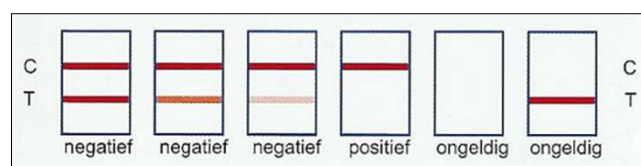
cocaine contingency management within HAT design

- effectiveness of six months ongoing heroin-assisted treatment *plus* cocaine contingency management *compared to* six months ongoing heroin-assisted treatment alone
- among chronic treatment-refractory heroin dependent patients with substantial cocaine use
- in terms of changes in
 - cocaine consumption
 - physical, mental and social health
 - treatment retention
- effect of terminating contingency management (while continuing heroin-assisted treatment)

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cocaine contingency management within HAT treatment intervention

- supervised collection of urine samples: 1-3 samples per week
- rapid test: cocaine metabolites
 - cocaine-negative urines will be reinforced
 - cocaine-positive urines will be ignored
- outcome entered into web-based computer program



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cocaine contingency management within HAT treatment intervention

escalating reward schedule

- first cocaine-negative urine: € 2
- escalating reward for each consecutive cocaine-negative urine: plus € 1
- three consecutive cocaine-negative urines: € 8 bonus

maximum earnings

- per sample: € 16
(after 15 consecutive cocaine-free urines)
- per week: € 56
- during trial: € 1,111
(after 65 consecutive cocaine-free urines)

Patient						
Experimentele groep gegevens patient						
Patënt nr.	900006	Bij 3 negatief:				
Initiaal voornaam:	p	Saldo:				
Initiaal achternaam:	b	Uitgekeerd:				
Geboortedatum:	1-1-1947	Nog te verdienen:				
Startdatum:	21-6-2006	Mogelijk totaal				
Patient saldo			Overzicht			
Rekening >>			Afdrukken >>			
Patient overzicht						
Week	UC	Testresultaat	Beloning	Bonus	Totaal	Cumulat
1	1	■	€ 2,00		€ 2,00	€ 2,00
	2	■	€ 3,00		€ 3,00	€ 5,00
	3	■	€ 4,00	€ 8,00	€ 12,00	€ 17,00
2	4		€ 0,00		€ 0,00	€ 0,00

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cocaine contingency management within HAT treatment intervention

escalating reward schedule

- € 2, € 3, € 4 --- € 16 maximum
- three consecutive cocaine-negative urines: € 8 bonus

but ...

- after cocaine-positive urine reward will be reset to € 2

... and ...

- after five consecutive cocaine-negative urines the reward will return to the highest value achieved before submitting cocaine-positive urine

	10	■		€ 11,00		€ 11,00	€ 69,00
	11	■		€ 12,00		€ 12,00	€ 101,00
	12	■		€ 13,00	€ 8,00	€ 21,00	€ 122,00
5	13	■	■	€ 0,00		€ 0,00	€ 122,00
	14	■		€ 2,00		€ 2,00	€ 124,00
	15	■		€ 3,00		€ 3,00	€ 127,00
6	16	■		€ 4,00	€ 8,00	€ 12,00	€ 139,00
	17	■		€ 5,00		€ 5,00	€ 144,00
	18	■		€ 6,00		€ 6,00	€ 150,00
7	19	■		€ 13,00	€ 8,00	€ 21,00	€ 171,00
	20			€ 0,00		€ 0,00	€ 0,00

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cocaine contingency management results

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cocaine contingency management within HAT results – cocaine use (ITT sample)

primary outcome measure	HAT only (n = 107)		HAT + CM (n = 107)		p-value	Cohen's d
	mean	sd	mean	sd		
# weeks longest duration cocaine abstinence	1.59	2.17	3.72	5.84	< 0.001	0.48 (0.21 – 0.76)
secondary cocaine-related outcome measures	mean	sd	mean	sd	p-value	Cohen's d
# weeks cocaine negative urine-samples	3.62	4.57	6.25	8.24	0.008	0.47 (0.20 – 0.75)
secondary cocaine-related outcome measures	n	%	n	%	p-value	NNT
at least 8 weeks uninterrupted cocaine abstinence	3	2.8	17	15.9	0.003	7.6 (4.8 – 18.2)
at least 12 weeks uninterrupted cocaine abstinence	1	0.9	11	10.3	0.018	10.7 (6.5 – 30.2)
at least 16 weeks uninterrupted cocaine abstinence	0	0.0	7	6.5	0.014	15.3 (8.7 – 63.3)
final four weeks cocaine abstinence	1	0.9	13	12.1	0.010	8.9 (5.7 – 21.0)

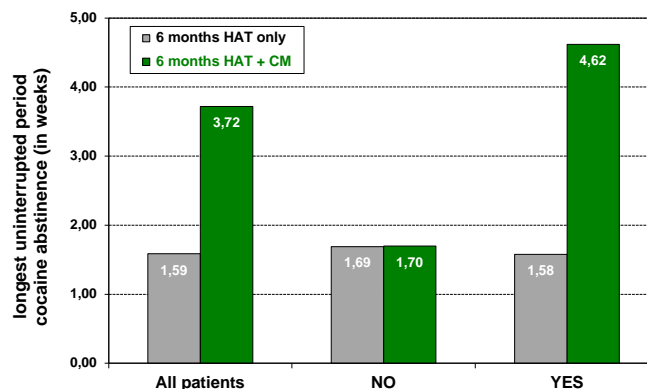
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cocaine contingency management effect moderators

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cocaine contingency management within HAT secondary analysis – effect moderation

- cocaine use
- treatment history
- intention



intention to quit cocaine use at start of heroin-assisted treatment
(i.e., two months before randomization, c.q., start of CM-intervention)

treatment * intention

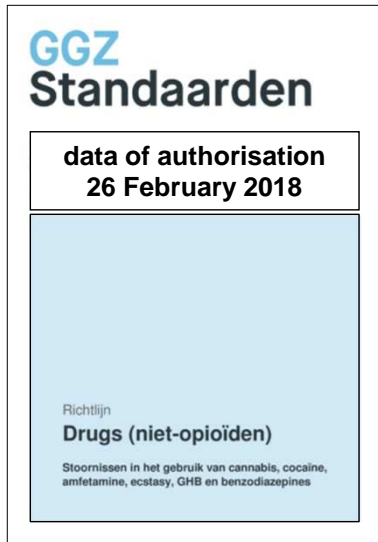
p = 0.001

$d_{\text{INTENTION-NO}} = 0.00$

$d_{\text{INTENTION-YES}} = 0.61$

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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders



<https://www.ggzstandaarden.nl/richtlijnen/stoornissen-in-het-gebruik-van-cannabis-cocaine-amfetamine-ecstasy-ghb-en-benzodiazepines/introductie>
accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022

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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders



- **major recommendations:**
- **psychological treatment cocaine**
- **1st choice: contingency management**

Es wird empfohlen, dass bei Personen mit einer Kokainabhängigkeit eine Behandlung mit einem auf den Drogenkonsum ausgerichteten Kontingenzmanagement als erste Wahl angeboten wird.

Die Kombination von auf den Substanzkonsum ausgerichtetem Kontingenzmanagement und kognitiven Verhaltenstherapie hat wahrscheinlich kein zusätzlichen Nutzen bei der Behandlung von Menschen mit einer Kokainabhängigkeit.

amfetamine, ecstasy, GHB en benzodiazepines

<https://www.ggzstandaarden.nl/richtlijnen/stoornissen-in-het-gebruik-van-cannabis-cocaine-amfetamine-ecstasy-ghb-en-benzodiazepines/introductie>
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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders

GGZ Standaarden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• major recommendations: psychological treatment cocaine• 1st choice: contingency management• 2nd choice: cognitive behaviour therapy
data of authorisation 26 February 2018	
Wenn eine Behandlung mit substanzkonsumorientiertem Kontingenzmanagement nicht möglich ist, wird empfohlen, Personen mit einer Kokainabhängigkeit eine Behandlung mit kognitiver Verhaltenstherapie anzubieten.	
<small>Richtlijn</small> Drugs (niet-opioiden) <small>Stoornissen in het gebruik van cannabis, cocaine, amfetamine, ecstasy, GHB en benzodiazepines</small>	

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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders

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Wenn Patienten von einer kognitiven Verhaltenstherapie nicht ausreichend profitieren, könnte eine Behandlung mit dem Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) in Betracht gezogen werden.	

<https://www.ggzstandaarden.nl/richtlijnen/stoornissen-in-het-gebruik-van-cannabis-cocaine-amfetamine-ecstasy-ghb-en-benzodiazepines/introductie>
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Health insurers Nederland



Zorgverzekeraars Nederland (ZN) is the umbrella organization of eleven health insurers in The Netherlands. (). ZN supports its members by fulfilling the mission of the Dutch health insurers: to arrange health care of good quality for their insured, that is affordable and accessible at the same time and aimed at promoting the well-being of their insured.

ZN concluded that: "Kontingenzmanagement ist auf dem neuesten Stand von der Wissenschaft und Praxis" ... and can be offered "Eigenständig im Falle der Kokainsucht"

Teil der Behandlung: bei Opiatabhängigkeit als zusätzliche Maßnahme zur pharmakologischen Behandlung und bei Cannabis- und (Meth)Amphetaminabhängigkeit nur in Kombination mit CBT als begrenzter Teil der Behandlung und wenn die Behandlungsziele im Behandlungsplan enthalten sind.

<https://www.zn.nl/336986125/publicaties?DossierIds=339148801>
(accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022)

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<https://www.zn.nl/336986125/publicaties?DossierIds=339148801>
(accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022)

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However, the rewards that patients receive, are not yet reimbursed by the insurance companies !!!

The NZa - Dutch Healthcare Authority - is to come with a solution for this dilemma

pharmacological treatments for cocaine



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effective pharmacotherapy – cocaine

- 6 Cochrane reviews: > 100 studies; > 10,000 patients
 - **anticonvulsants** (Minozzi, 2015)
20 studies – 2.068 patients
 - **antidepressants** (Pani, 2011)
37 studies – 3.551 patients
 - **antipsychotics** (Indave, 2016)
14 studies – 719 patients
 - **disulfiram** (Pani, 2010)
7 studies – 492 patients
 - **dopamine agonists** (Minozzi, 2015)
24 studies – 2.147 patients
 - **psychostimulants** (Castells 2016)
26 studies – 2.366 patients



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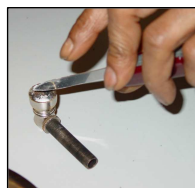
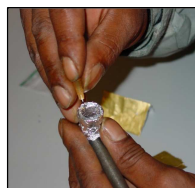
effective pharmacotherapy – cocaine

- 6 Cochrane reviews: > 100 studies; > 10,000 patients
 - "... **no current evidence** supports the clinical use of anticonvulsant medications in the treatment of patients with cocaine dependence" (2015)
 - "... at the current stage of evidence **data do not support** the efficacy of antidepressants in the treatment of cocaine abuse/dependence" (2011)
 - "... at present, there is **no evidence** supporting the clinical use of antipsychotic medications in the treatment of cocaine dependence" (2016)
 - "... there is **low evidence**, at the present, supporting the clinical use of disulfiram for the treatment of cocaine dependence" (2010)
 - "... current evidence from randomised controlled trials **does not support** the use of dopamine agonists for treating cocaine misuse" (2015)
 - "... this review found mixed results. Psychostimulants improved cocaine abstinence in some analyses* compared to placebo, but did not improve treatment retention. (). ... substitution treatment with psychostimulants **appears promising** and **deserves further investigation**" (2016)

* the proportion of patients achieving sustained cocaine abstinence was higher with **bupropion** and **dexamphetamine** than with placebo.

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Cocaine
Addiction
Treatments to improve
Control and reduce
Harm



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CATCH

study 1

topiramate

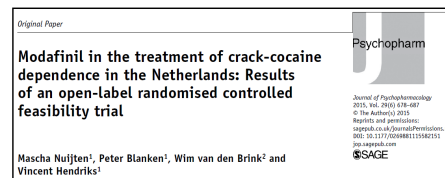
Brijder, The Hague



study 2

modafinil

Jellinek, Amsterdam
Mentrum, Amsterdam
Brijder, The Hague



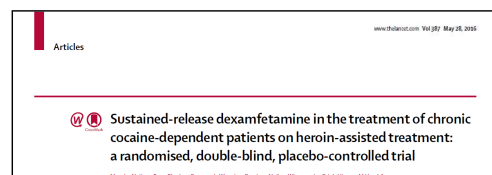
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CATCH

study 3

dexamfetamine sustained-release

Jellinek, Amsterdam
Antes-Bouman, Rotterdam
Brijder, The Hague



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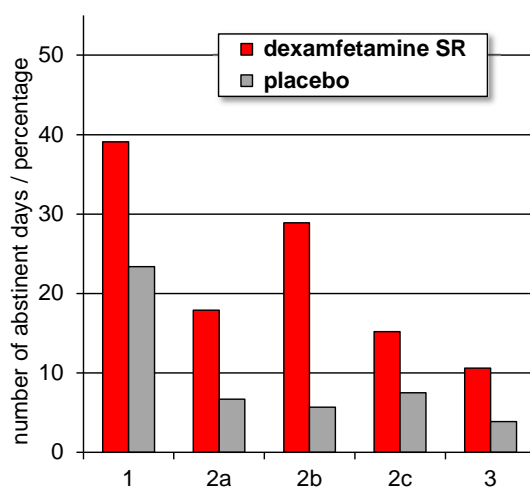
CATCH results

- **patients**
 - 73 treatment-refractory cocaine dependent patients – participating in heroin-assisted treatment for their comorbid opioid dependence
- **intervention**
 - dexamfetamine-SR: n = 38 – 60 mg/day daily supervised intake
- **medication adherence**
 - 92% medication compliance
 - 61 patients (84%) full medication adherence in final 4 weeks
- **study participation**
 - week 12 interviews: 72 out of 73 (98.6%)
 - urine samples: 516 out of 584 (88.4%)
- **blinding**: correct SR dexamfetamine: 54% } $K = 0.14$
 correct placebo: 60%

Nuijten et al. 2016 The Lancet

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CATCH efficacy



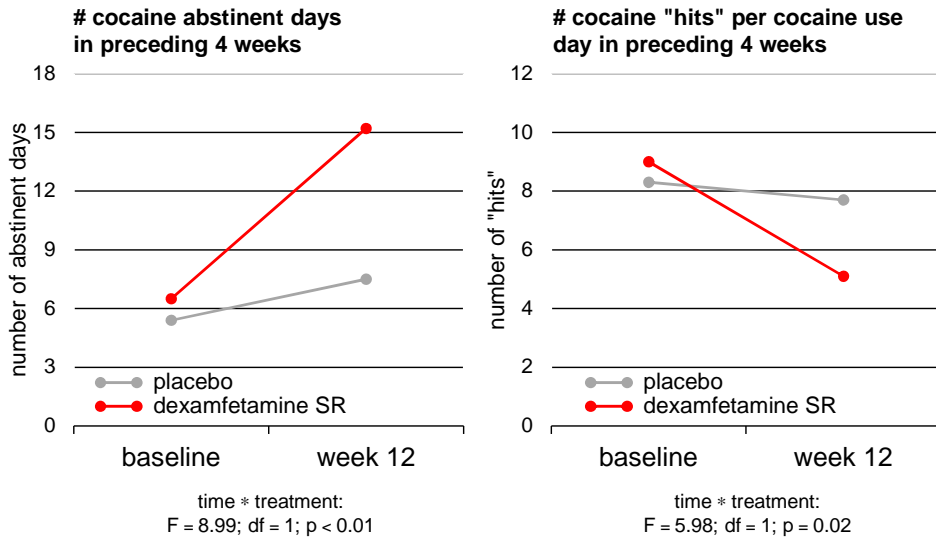
outcome

- 1 days cocaine abstinence * during 12 week study
39 vs. 23 days; p = 0.03; d = 0.58
- 2a days longest consecutive period cocaine abstinence
18 vs. 7 days; p < 0.01; d = 0.58
- 2b ≥ 21 days consecutive cocaine abstinence
29% vs. 6%; p = 0.02; NNT = 4.3
- 2c days cocaine abstinence in final 4 weeks
15 vs. 8 days; p < 0.01; d = 0.77
- 3 cocaine-negative urines
11% vs. 4%; p = 0.02; d = 0.31

Nuijten et al. 2016 The Lancet

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CATCH efficacy



Nuijten et al. 2016 The Lancet

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CATCH safety

- **medical Adverse Events (AEs)**
 - dexamfetamine-SR: 74% versus placebo: 46% (p = 0.02)
 - sleep disturbances, agitation, physical arousal
 - mostly mild and transient
- **premature/temporal discontinuation medication**
 - serious adverse event (n = 1; placebo; re-started treatment)
 - severe AE (psychotic symptoms; n = 1; SR-dexamfetamine)
 - other AE-related (SR-dexamfetamine: n = 1; placebo: n = 2)
 - imprisonment (SR-dexamfetamine: n = 1; placebo: n = 2)
 - experienced no medication effect (placebo: n = 1)
 - dose reduction (n = 2; SR-dexamfetamine)

Nuijten et al. 2016 The Lancet

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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders

GGZ
Standaarden

- **major recommendations:**
pharmacological treatment cocaine
- no proven effective medications

Trotz zahlreicher Studien gibt es keine überzeugenden Beweise für die Wirksamkeit einer pharmakologischen Behandlung der Kokainabhängigkeit. Bei der Behandlung einer Kokainabhängigkeit sollte man daher mit der Verschreibung von Medikamenten vorsichtig sein.

Richtlijn
Drugs (niet-opioiden)
Stoornissen in het gebruik van cannabis, cocaine, amfetamine, ecstasy, GHB en benzodiazepines

<https://www.ggzstandaarden.nl/richtlijnen/stoornissen-in-het-gebruik-van-cannabis-cocaine-amfetamine-ecstasy-ghb-en-benzodiazepines/introductie>
accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022

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Dutch guideline: Treatment non-opioid drug use disorders

GGZ
Standaarden

data of authorisation
26 February 2018

- **major recommendations:**
pharmacological treatment cocaine
- no proven effective medications
- if insufficient effect from psychosocial treatment
⇒ indirect dopamine agonist might be considered: sustained-release dexamphetamine / mixed amphetamine salts / bupropion / modafinil

Bei Erwachsenen mit Kokainabhängigkeit, die von einer psychologischen Behandlung nicht ausreichend profitieren, kann eine Pharmakotherapie mit indirekten Dopaminagonisten in Betracht gezogen werden.

Insbesondere Dexamphetamin und gemischte Amphetaminsalze mit verzögerter Wirkstofffreisetzung und vielleicht auch - bei ausreichender Adhärenz - Bupropion und Modafinil könnten wirksam sein.

<https://www.ggzstandaarden.nl/richtlijnen/stoornissen-in-het-gebruik-van-cannabis-cocaine-amfetamine-ecstasy-ghb-en-benzodiazepines/introductie>
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pharmacological treatment cocaine
- no proven effective medications
- if insufficient effect from psychosocial treatment
⇒ indirect dopamine agonist might be considered: sustained-release dexamphetamine / mixed amphetamine salts / bupropion / modafinil
- off-label ⇒ informed consent, monitoring

Wenn die Entscheidung getroffen wird, eine Pharmakotherapie für die Behandlung einer Kokainabhängigkeit zu starten, sollte der Arzt den Patienten deutlich darauf hinweisen, dass es sich um ein "Off-Label" verordnetes Arzneimittel handelt und der Patient sein Einverständnis ("informed consent") dazu geben muss. Es wird empfohlen, dies sorgfältig zu legitimieren und zu dokumentieren und den Fortschritt der Behandlungsfortschritte, einschließlich der Nebenwirkungen regelmäßig zu überwachen.

productie

accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022

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what happened since then ...

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Psychopharmacology
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-020-05563-3>

REVIEW

Prescription psychostimulants for the treatment of stimulant use disorder: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Vitor S. Tardelli¹ • Adam Bisaga² • Felipe B. Arcadepani¹ • Gilberto Gerra³ • Frances R. Levin² • Thiago M. Fidalgo¹

Conclusion Prescription psychostimulants, particularly prescription amphetamines given in robust doses, have a clinically significant beneficial effect to promote abstinence in the treatment of individuals with PSUD, specifically the population with cocaine use disorder.



https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/Treatment_of_PSUD_for_website_24.05.19.pdf
accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022

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Full application – Rational Pharmacotherapy
5th Rediscovery call

FULL APPLICATION FORM – 5th REDISCOVERY CALL

Rational Pharmacotherapy
(Goed Gebruik Geneesmiddelen)

Deadline for submission: 11th of January, 2022 (14:00h)

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Cocaine
Addiction
Treatments to improve **2.0**
Control and reduce
Harm



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CATCH 2.0
objectives and design

- **objectives**
 - efficacy of 24 weeks SR-dexamphetamine treatment in patients with moderate/ severe cocaine use disorder, participating in routine methadone maintenance treatment for their comorbid opioid use disorder
 - consequences of discontinuation of SR-dexamphetamine after 24 weeks
- **design: double-blind, placebo-controlled randomised trial**
- **intervention**
 - individually titrated SR-dexamphetamine: **max. 90 mg/day (3 tablets of 30 mg)**
 - medication (*verum* and placebo): dispensed **twice weekly + take-home doses**
- **outcome parameters**
 - primary endpoint: days cocaine abstinence in final 4 weeks of treatment
 - key secondary endpoint: overall health status (physical, mental, social)
 - **safety** (e.g., ECG, vital signs, haematology, (S)AEs) – and testing **study blind**

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CATCH 2.0

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine
ClinicalTrials.gov

Find a study (all fields optional)

Status Recruiting and not yet recruiting studies All studies

Condition or disease

Other terms

Country

Search Advanced Search

Home > Search Results

Modify Search Start Over

6 Studies found for: **sustained-release dexamphetamine | Cocaine Use Disorder**
Also searched for **Dextroamphetamine** See Search Details

Not enough studies found? Try these [search suggestions](#).

Row	Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet recruiting	Efficacy and Safety of Sustained-release Dexamphetamine in Patients With Moderate to Severe Cocaine Use Disorder	Cocaine Use Disorder	Drug: Sustained-release Dexamphetamine Drug: Placebo
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting	Targeting Anhedonia in Cocaine Use Disorder	Cocaine-Related Disorders Anhedonia	Drug: d-amphetamine Behavioral: Contingency management Drug: Placebo (for d-amphetamine)
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting	Neurobehavioral Mechanisms of Cocaine Choice	Cocaine Use Disorder	Drug: Sustained Release d-amphetamine Behavioral: Money
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed	Dextroamphetamine as an Adjunct in Cocaine Treatment - 1	Cocaine-Related Disorders Substance-Related Disorders	Drug: Dextroamphetamine Drug: D-Amphetamine

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=Cocaine+Use+Disorder&term=sustained-release+dexamphetamine&cntry=&state=&city=&dist=> accessed: Thursday, 29 September 2022

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I would like to thank ...

* all the **patients** and **treatment staff** that participated in and contributed to our studies

* my **colleagues**:

- Vincent M Hendriks, PhD. Prof.
- Wim van den Brink, PhD. Prof.
- Mascha Nuijten, PhD.
- Jos H Beijnen, PhD. Prof.
- Bastiaan Nuijen, PhD
- Ben van de Wetering, PhD
- Manja van der Toorn
- Jan M van Ree, PhD. Prof.
- Ineke A Huijsman, LL.M.
- and many others ...

for more information

www.brijder.nl/wetenschappelijk-onderzoek

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