The problem of substance use in Saudi Arabia and available treatment

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Globally, the number of people using amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) - estimated at around 30-40 million - is soon likely to exceed the number of opiate and cocaine users combined. **UNODA 2010**
The situation of Amphetamine problem in Saudi Arabia:

No official governmental registry

No much studies

Data available is from the:
- Hospital statistics
- Amount of seized amphetamine
- Crime related to amphetamine
Main problem drugs

World Drug Report 2006

Note: Data generally account for primary drug use; therefore polydrug use may increase totals beyond 100%.
Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data/DELTA and National Government Reports.
Amphetamines in Saudi Context

Saudi Arabia is a major destination for amphetamines (especially Captagon)

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2010
Captagon trafficking in the Arabian peninsula and neighbouring States

Global seizures of amphetamine (including Captagon)
Breakdown of global amphetamine seizures, 2000-2008
(Ton equivalents)
Seizures of amphetamine (including Captagon) worldwide, highest ranking countries, 2009

- Saudi Arabia: 12.4 tons
- Jordan: 3.7 tons
- Syrian Arab Republic: 1.7 tons
- United Kingdom: 1.4 tons
- Germany: 1.2 tons
- Turkey: 1.2 tons
- Netherlands: 1.2 tons
- Iran (Islamic Republic of): 0.9 tons
- Yemen: 0.9 tons
- Qatar: 0.8 tons
- France: 0.6 tons
- Poland: 0.4 tons
- Sweden: 0.4 tons
- Bulgaria: 0.3 tons
- Norway: 0.2 tons
- Spain: 0.1 tons
- United States of America: 0.1 tons
- United Arab Emirates: 0.1 tons
- Finland: 0.1 tons
- Denmark: 0.1 tons

Tons or equivalents
What is Captagon?

Captagon is the brand name for a pharmaceutical drug developed in the 1960s to treat ADHD.

Its production was discontinued in the 1980s.

Pharmaceutical Captagon contained a synthetic stimulant called fenetylline.

Nowadays, Captagon contains amphetamine as well as other chemicals, including caffeine.
Among Saudi patients in addiction treatment settings, the most commonly abused substances were

**Amphetamine (4 – 70.7 %)**

Bassiony M: Journal of Substance Use 2013
Two decade of treatment seeking for substance use disorders in Saudi Arabia
trend and patterns in rehabilitation facility in Dammam

Abumadini MS, Rahim SI, Al-Zahrani MA, Al-Johi
Drug and Alcohol Dependence 2008
## Trends of Substance Use – Dammam

( The relative frequency of substances )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years / Substance</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Heroin</th>
<th>Cannabis</th>
<th>Amphetamine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>72.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AbuMadini et al 2008
Two decades of treatment seeking for substance use disorders in Saudi Arabia: Trends and patterns in a rehabilitation facility in Dammam
### Number of Amphetamine user among patients admitted to Alamal hospital – Dammam (1429 h – 1433 h) (2008 – 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Substance</th>
<th>Total of admission</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>1085</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glue</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashish</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamine</td>
<td>1472</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two substance</td>
<td>2315</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of patients using amphetamine
Alamal hospital – Riyadh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amphetamine</th>
<th>Other Drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1192</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Substance Induced Psychosis among patients admitted to Alamil hospital - Dammam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Percentage%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1429 (2008)</td>
<td>1467</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1430 (2009)</td>
<td>1456</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1431 (2010)</td>
<td>1654</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1432 (2011)</td>
<td>1556</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1433 (2012)</td>
<td>1617</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1434 (2013)</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8164</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25% of the admission have Substance induced psychosis.
ADDICTION TREATMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Four government drug rehabilitation centres were established (Alamal hospitals “Hope”)

They adopted a total abstinence philosophy

Treatment is confined to these rehabilitation centres only (Plus Private clinics)

The New expansion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>phase</th>
<th>duration</th>
<th>focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment &amp; detoxification</td>
<td>1-3 Weeks</td>
<td>Medical detoxification, multidisciplinary assessment, stabilization, Education &amp; Motivational Enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could be Involuntary</td>
<td>Closed unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short term Rehabilitation</td>
<td>2-4 Weeks</td>
<td>Understand self and recovery process, Relapse prevention, Family intervention, Introduction of self help group, Reintegration back to community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simi closed Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous care</td>
<td>More than two months</td>
<td>Continuation of previous phase meeting individual needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out patient, Residential Or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half way houses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other services

- Emergency Room
- Out patient clinic
- Day Program
- Dual Diagnosis Unit
- Adolescent Unit
- Female Unit
- Smoking Clinics
Treatment components

- Pharmacological therapy
- Individual therapy
- Group therapy
- Family therapy
- Activity therapy
- AA & NA
- Religious therapy
Problem in addiction treatment

Limited drug treatment services

Shortage of qualified health care professional

More stigma, shame and denial – Biggest roadblocks to recovery
Problem in treatment of amphetamine (Captagon) use Disorders

Inpatient treatment

Out patient Treatment

Treatment of Amphetamine induced Psychosis
Thank you

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