



# Evaluation of the use of psychoactive substances among patients admitted to a cardiology intensive care unit: prevalence and prevention

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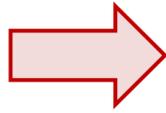
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**Addiction to psychoactive substances (PAS) can lead to cardiovascular complications. Cardiotoxicity of drugs is known but it is rarely documented by toxicology.**



## Objectives

- Prevalence study on illicit PAS use among patients with cardiac symptoms in ICUC
- Analysis of diagnosis and description of PAS user's characteristics.

**Methods:** Prospective observational study performed during 3 months. Patients admitted in ICUC had to complete a hetero questionnaire about his illicit PAS consumption and a qualitative toxicological research in urine and/or blood (immunochemical / GC-MS detection).

**Table 1: Patients characteristics**

## Results

N=161 patients included (Table 1)

**HIGH PREVALENCE OF ILLICIT PAS USE 8,7%**

- Patients aged 40-70 years
- Cannabis and Cocaine mainly detected

### Clinical diagnoses

- acute coronary syndromes
- severe cardiac arrhythmias

Data about patients	Total sample (N / %)	PAS positive (N / %)	PAS negative (N / %)	p-value
<b>PATIENTS</b>	161 (100%)	14 (8.7%)	147 (91.3%)	
<b>Male</b>	111 (69%)	12 (86%)	99 (67%)	p=0.17
<b>Median age</b>	64	50	65.4	p=0.0004
<b>Current smoker</b>	54 (34%)	11 (79%)	43 (29%)	p=0.0005
<b>Cardiovascular risk factors</b>	121 (75%)	9 (64%)	112 (76%)	P=0.50
<b>Past cardiovascular history</b>	70 (43%)	5 (36%)	65 (44%)	p=0.77
<b>Neither past cardiovascular history, nor risk factors</b>	33 (20%)	5 (36%)	28 (19%)	p=0.25
<b>Previous substance use disorders</b>	21 (13%)	5 (36%)	16 (11%)	p=0.03
<b>Admission for acute coronary syndrome</b>	71 (44%)	8 (57%)	63 (43%)	p=0.47

**Conclusions:** In France, for patients admitted in cardiology department, toxicological screening is rarely done. Our study shows a high illicit PAS use among patients aged 40-70 years (8,7%). According to data of the French Health Barometer, there is regular use of cannabis and cocaine at respectively 3% and 1.1% among people aged 18- 64 (1).

**These results invite us to achieve a more systematic identification of PAS use among patients with cardiovascular disorders and to optimize the therapeutic management by a systematic orientation in addictology.**