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## Investigating the comparison of cognitive-executive functions and emotional symptoms between individuals under methadone maintenance treatment and normal people

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Executive function is considered as the capacity of the human brain including the capacity for organization, cognitive flexibility, planning, problem solving, and so on. Long-term use of opiates such as heroin and methadone is associated with a wide range of executive functions deficits. The purpose of this study was to compare cognitive-executive function and emotional symptoms of people with methadone maintenance treatment and normal people.

**Materials and method:** This study is a causal comparative study. The study sample consisted of two groups of 40 individuals of under methadone maintenance treatment and normal people who were selected by purposeful sampling. Research tools were: Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST), Tower of London Test (TOL) and Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale-42 (DASS-42). Data were analyzed by SPSS-22 and independent t-test.

**Results:** The results showed that there was a significant difference between methadone-treated individuals and normal people in cognitive flexibility ( $t = -2.48$ ) and planning ( $t = -4.96$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ). The results of DASS-42 also showed that methadone-treated individuals experience more depressive, anxiety and stress symptoms than normal people ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Methadone-treated individuals perform poorer than normal people in terms of executive function, and experience more emotional symptoms. Therefore, these poor performances in the treatment of these individuals should be considered.

**Keywords:** Executive Functions, Emotional Symptoms, Methadone Maintenance Therapy, Addiction

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