Outcomes for Lanarkshire patients at Castle Craig Hospital



the 2004 evaluation for Lanarkshire patients admitted between 5th August 2002 to 20th February 2004

Independent analysis of outcome data Christo Research Systems

18th May 2004

Castle Craig Hospital

Medical director: Dr Margaret McCann MB, Bch, BAO.

Treatment director: Dr. Alasdair Young, MB, ChB (Glas.), MRCPsych

Address: Blyth Bridge, West Linton, Peeblesshire, Scotland EH46 7DH.

Tel: 01721 722763

E-mail: enquiries@castlecraig.co.uk

Christo Research Systems

Director: Dr George Christo DipHE, BSc, PhD, PsychD. Address: 27 Purley Avenue, London NW2 1SH.

Tel: 020 8452 3012

E-mail: DrGeorgeChristo@breathemail.net

Website: http://users.breathemail.net/drgeorgechristo/

Summary of findings

- 28 drug and 61 alcohol dependent patients (48 males, 41 females) from the Lanarkshire area entered Castle Craig between 5th August 2002 to 20th February 2004 and stayed in treatment for more than 3 days and also left follow-up contact addresses or telephone numbers with the hospital.
- Their average length of stay in primary treatment was 5 weeks. 35% then went on to extended care were their average length of stay was 10 weeks.
- Females were more likely to enter extended care than males.
- 67 of 89 patients were followed-up on average about 50 weeks later. 89% improved, 9% remained the same, and 2% got worse.
- These patients were generally quite dysfunctional at intake. The average intake CISS total score of the 67 patients was 11.9 and their greatest problems at intake were with drug or alcohol use, lack of occupation, lack of support, psychological problems and health problems.
- Drug dependent patients tended to have greater problems with social functioning, viral risk, criminality, compliance and working relationships. They were thus also more likely to leave primary treatment prematurely.
- Patients were generally more dysfunctional than those attending outpatient alcohol or drug services (based on the CISS comparison scores see Appendix).
- The average follow-up CISS score was 4.1, thus indicating highly significant improvement.
- Reductions in drug / alcohol use at follow-up were accompanied by improvements in all other CISS domains.
- Even those who were not totally abstinent at follow-up appeared to have benefited from their experience in treatment, probably by gaining a period of respite during which to recover from the consequences of their excessive drinking or drug use.
- The following 'success' rates for all Lanarkshire patients are conservatively based on the assumption that the 21 patients not followed-up all showed no improvement or otherwise had poor outcomes.
 - Being totally abstinent from all drugs or alcohol at follow-up 45%
 - Achieving low problem severity at follow-up (CISS < 6, see appendix)
 - Showing any reduction in measured levels of dysfunction 67%

General approach

Castle Craig Hospital provides an abstinence oriented residential treatment for alcohol or drug dependent individuals. It uses an established treatment model developed in the US around 1950 and first imported to the UK in 1974 (Cook, 1988a). Outcomes generated by this approach are very good (Cook, 1988b) and have recently been shown to be at least equal to and in some cases better than other commonly used treatments for substance misuse (Project MATCH, 1997; Ouimette et al, 1997; Longabaugh et al, 1998).

It is an intensive psychologically oriented approach consisting of regular group work, one to one counselling, lectures and written assignments. Many similar therapeutic communities are well established throughout the UK and their programme facilitates engagement with the independent free after care resource provided by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (AA & NA) groups. Regular attendance of AA and NA has been shown to be associated with reduced drug or alcohol use (Emrick, 1987; McLatchie & Lomp, 1988; Alford et al, 1991; Christo & Franey, 1995; Gossop et al, 2003), improved psychological health (Christo & Sutton, 1994; DeSoto et al, 1989; DeSoto et al, 1985; McCown, 1989; McCown, 1990), and with improved physical health (Mann et al, 1991).

Services offered

Castle Craig Hospital offers detoxification from alcohol, tranquillisers, or opiates. Patients are encouraged to engage with all aspects of the programme during detoxification because it serves as a useful distraction from withdrawal symptoms and assists in their orientation. Patients are also assessed to identify specific medical (e.g. liver dysfunction), psychological (e.g. cognitive deficits, anxiety, abuse or traumatic events), or psychiatric (e.g. dual diagnosis, suicide risk, epilepsy) problems that may need to be addressed in their individual care plans.

The primary stage of treatment is quite intensive and is of about six weeks' duration. Counselling staff employ a full range of psychotherapeutic approaches depending upon their training and interests (e.g. Rational Emotive Behavioural Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Reality Therapy, and many others).

Individuals with poor support networks or social functioning may then go on to a less intensive secondary stage of rehabilitation usually at Castle Craig's Extended Care Unit. As well as using the same elements found in primary treatment, extended care also assists patients to reintegrate with society by focusing on practical issues of occupation, housing, financial, legal and family problems.

Castle Craig Hospital can offer aftercare group therapy held in four locations in Scotland and two in the Netherlands at Amsterdam and Den Haag. All clients are encouraged to attend one or more of these aftercare sessions weekly for a period of up to two years after completing their residential treatment.

Aims of treatment

- Detoxification and stabilisation, abstaining from alcohol and other drugs.
- Creating a therapeutic bond to facilitate engagement with support from staff, peers, and AA or NA.
- Separating from people, places and things that promote substance use and establishing a new social network that supports recovery.
- Identifying recurrent problems, resolving painful / traumatic memories.
- Stopping compulsive self-defeating behaviours that suppress awareness of painful feelings and irrational thoughts.
- Relapse warning sign identification and management strategies. Identifying past causes of lapse and appropriate future coping strategies.
- Learning how to manage feelings and emotions responsibly without resorting to compulsive behaviour or the use of chemicals.
- Identifying and changing dysfunctional core beliefs (about self, others, and the world) that
 promote the use of irrational thinking and create painful feelings and self-defeating
 behaviours.
- Learning to change maladaptive behaviour patterns developed during childhood in dysfunctional families of origin.
- Increasing self-esteem by feeling worthwhile to self and helping others, promoting engagement with society, dealing with practical problems and establishing meaningful occupation.

Outcome measures & methods

How outcome was measured

Outcome was measured by the Christo Inventory for Substance-misuse Services (CISS) which is a standardised, validated tool (Christo, Spurrell & Alcorn, 2000, Christo, 2000a) now commonly used in Scotland (Effective Interventions Unit, 2001), England & Wales (Audit Commission, 2002; Christo, 1999a,b,c; Christo, 2000b,c,d,e,f, Christo, 2001), and abroad (Christo & Da Silva, 2002). The CISS is a single page outcome evaluation tool completed by drug / alcohol service workers either from direct client interviews or from personal experience of their client supplemented by existing assessment notes. Its purpose is to elicit workers' impressions of their clients in a quick, quantitative, standardised and reliable way. The 0 to 20 scale consists of 10 items reflecting clients' problems with:

Social functioning
General health
Sexual / injecting risk behaviour
Psychological functioning
Occupation

Criminal involvement
Drug / alcohol use
Ongoing support
Compliance
Working relationships

These outcome areas are scored on a three point scale of problem severity (0 = none, 1 = moderate, 2 = severe), each point is illustrated with relevant examples for guidance. Thus, a CISS score of 0 would indicate no problems and a score of 20 would indicate severe problems in all outcome areas.

Evaluation procedure

CISS is incorporated as a regular part of Castle Craig Hospital's intake and follow-up procedures. Baseline CISS forms were completed by staff from information gathered at the first assessment. They were then completed again during follow-up interviews on average about 50 weeks later. A table of entry and exit dates for all Lanarkshire patients was extracted from the hospital database and delivered to Christo Research Systems for analysis along with relevant CISS forms.

Sample

• The sample comprised of patients from the Lanarkshire area who entered treatment between 5th August 2002 to 20th February 2004 and stayed in treatment for more than 3 days. Eighty-nine patients (48 males, 41 females) met these criteria and also left follow-up contact addresses or telephone numbers with the hospital. Attempts were made to follow up all of them and 67 patients (41 males, 26 females) were successfully contacted in order to obtain the detailed information presented below. This evaluation thus reports outcomes for the 67 patients who were followed-up.

Findings regarding all 89 patients

Statistical information

- *n* indicates the number of data points incorporated in each variable description, some assessments were incomplete.
- **m** indicates a mean value, all averages in this report are means.
- **sd** indicates a standard deviation, thus giving an idea of the spread of scores around the mean. (In a normal distribution, 68% of all data points lie plus or minus one sd about the mean.)
- range indicates the total range of values within a measured variable (minimum maximum).
- t, f, χ^2 and U are statistical tests to show if two groups are significantly different from each other.
- p indicates the level of significance of a statistical test, the smaller the better.

Treatment course

All 89 patients entered treatment via the primary care programme. Thirty one patients with poor support networks or social functioning then went on to a less intensive secondary stage of rehabilitation at Castle Craig's Extended Care Unit.

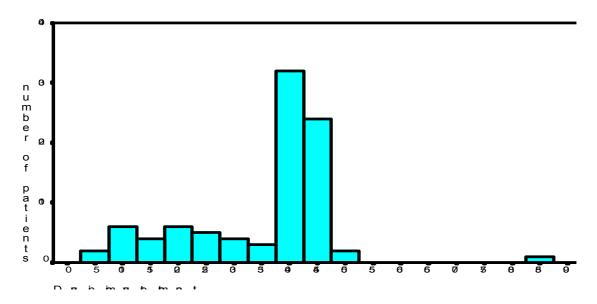
Table 1, The course of patients through treatment

	No. entered treatment	% entering extended care	No. entered extended care
Males	48	22.9%	11
Females	41	48.8%	20
Drug dependent	28	39.3%	11
Alcohol dependent	61	32.8%	20
All patients	89	34.8%	31

Table 1 indicates that of the 89 patients entering primary treatment, 34.8% went on to extended care. The highlighted sections of table 1 indicate that females were significantly more likely to go into extended care (χ^2 [1] = 6.5, p < .01). No other statistically significant differences were found in the above table.

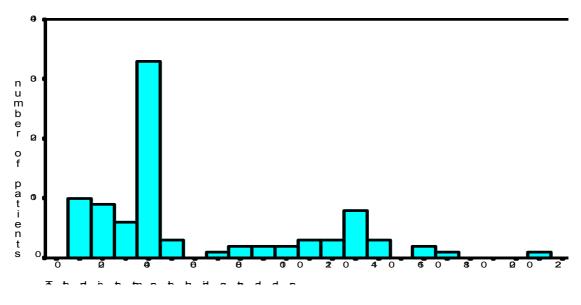
Treatment duration

Figure 1, The average length of stay in primary treatment was 5 weeks.



Drug dependent patients' average length of stay in primary treatment was 29.4days. Alcohol dependent patients' average length of stay in primary treatment was 38.2 days and these averages were significantly different (t [40.7] = -2.7, p = .01). No other significant differences were found regarding factors affecting length of stay in primary treatment.

Figure 2, bar chart of total treatment duration for all patients



34.8% of patients went on to extended care where their average length of stay was 10 weeks. Females' average total length of stay in treatment was 74.4days. Males' average total length of stay in treatment was 49.0days and these averages were significantly different (t [75.1] = 2.6, p = .01). This was due to the greater proportion of females going into extended care. No other significant differences were found regarding factors affecting total length of stay in treatment.

Follow-ups

Attempts were made between 13.4.04 and 16.4.04 to contact 89 Lanark patients. Those who could be contacted were interviewed using the CISS outcome measure. Follow-ups were successfully completed on 67 of the 89 patients (75.3%).

Table 2, Factors associated with successful follow-up contacts

	All patients		Females	•	Alcohol dependent	Entered extended care	Average total treatment duration (days)
% followed-up	75.3	85.4	63.4	75.0	75.4	77.4	63.0 days
% lost	24.7	14.6	36.6	25.0	24.6	22.6	53.9 days
Total number	89	48	41	28	61	31	

Table 2 lists details of available baseline information in order to explore if clients lost to follow-up were in any way different from those that were successfully followed-up. The highlighted sections of table 3 indicate that females were significantly less likely to be followed-up than males ($\chi^2[1] = 5.8$, p = .016). No other statistically significant differences were found in the above table.

Three female alcohol dependent patients could not be followed up because they had died. Their ages were 36, 36 and 61 years respectively.

The remaining 19 patients not followed-up had either moved and left no updated contact address, or did not return messages left by the interviewers.

Patients' problems at intake

The average intake CISS total score of the 89 patients was 11.8 (sd = 3.1, range 6 - 20). This figure is indicative of a high level of dysfunction and suggests that these patients are generally more dysfunctional than drinkers and drug users attending outpatient alcohol services (based on the CISS comparison scores for these groups, see Appendix).

For 28 drug dependent patients:

- 0% of patients had low problem severity (CISS score 0 to 5)
- 35.7% of patients had average problem severity (CISS score 6 to 12)
- 64.3% of patients had high problem severity (CISS score 13 to 20)

For 61 alcohol dependent patients:

- 0% of patients had low problem severity (CISS score 0 to 4)
- 70.5% of patients had average problem severity (CISS score 5 to 11)
- 29.5% of patients had high problem severity (CISS score 12 to 20)

There was no significant difference between males' and females' CISS total scores, nor was there any significant difference between average CISS scores of those followed-up or not available for follow-up.

The drug dependent patients' mean CISS score of 13.8 (n = 28, sd = 3.6) was significantly higher than the alcohol dependent patients' mean score of 10.8 (n = 61, sd = 2.3), (t = 3.9, p < .001). This difference is explored in figure 3 below and is as would be expected from a mixed sample of drug and alcohol dependent patients.

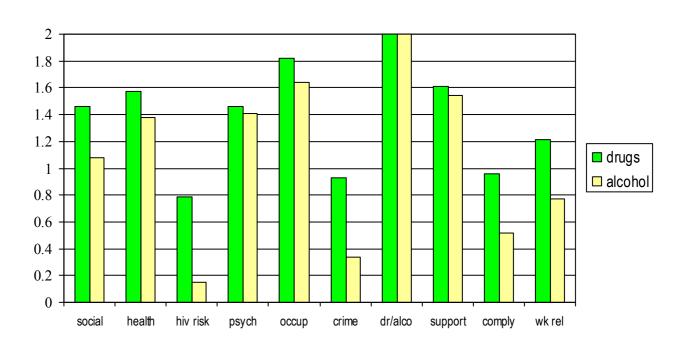


Figure 3, Baseline CISS item scores by drug type

Figure 3 compares the average CISS item scores (0 to 2 scale) as assessed at intake between the 28 drug and the 61 alcohol dependent patients. The taller the bars in the figure, the greater the average degree of problem within the relevant CISS domain. Alcohol dependent patients tended to have.....

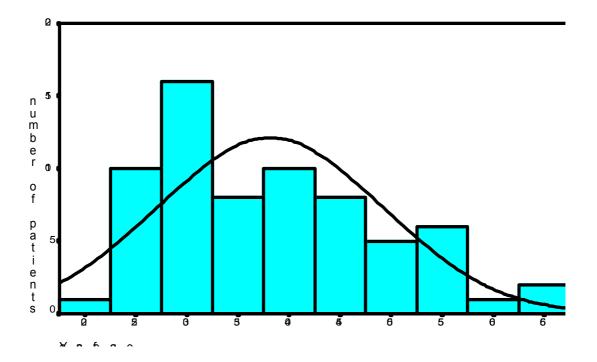
- Fewer social functioning problems (U = 585.0, p = .009)
- Fewer viral risk problems (U = 488.0, p < .0001)
- Fewer criminality problems (U = 493.0, p = .0003).
- Fewer compliance problems (U = 579.0, p = .007).
- Fewer working relationships problems (U = 553.0, p = .002).

Fewer problems with compliance and working relationships most likely explains why the alcohol dependent patients were more likely to stay in primary treatment for longer than the drug dependent patients. CISS compliance and working relationships item scores generally predict treatment outcome and premature discharge, regardless of the type of treatment.

Findings regarding 67 patients followed-up

The following details were not available for the 22 patients (7 males and 15 females) lost to follow-up, so this section reports only on the sample of 67 patients (41 males and 26 females) that were successfully followed-up.

Figure 4, Age



The patients' average age was 38.1 years (n = 67, sd = 11.0, range = 21 - 67), there was no difference in the average age of males and females.

However the drug dependent patients' mean age of 29.7 (n = 21, sd = 5.2) was significantly lower than the alcohol dependent patients' mean age of 42.0 (n = 46, sd = 10.8), (t = 6.3, p < .001). This difference is illustrated in the bimodal distribution evident in figure 4 above and this is as would be expected from a mixed sample of drug and alcohol dependent patients.

Follow-up periods

Standard follow-up times were hard to implement due to the long sampling period required to capture Lanarkshire patients' treatment entry dates.

- Intake interviews took place between 5.8.02 to 20.2.04
- Follow-up interviews took place between 13.4.04 and 16.4.04
- The average follow-up period was 50.3 weeks (n = 67, sd = 22.0, range = 7.9 87.4).

Figure 5, follow-up periods

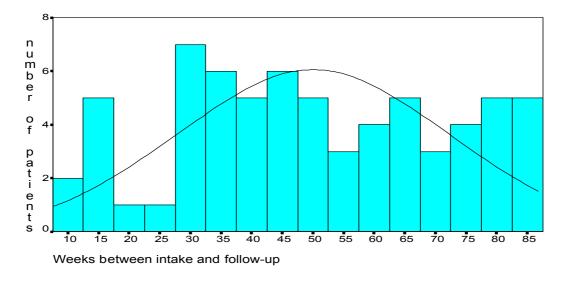


Figure 5 indicates the number of patients falling within each follow-up period. The distribution above indicates a broad range of follow-up periods.

Changes in patient dysfunction at follow-up

Figure 6, reductions of patient dysfunction

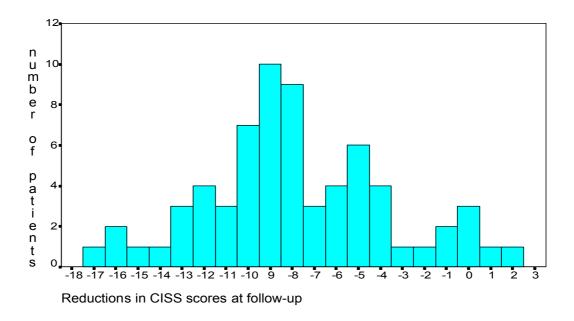


Figure 6 illustrates the reductions in CISS total scores achieved by the 67 patients who were followed-up. The inter-rater reliability of the CISS (Christo *et al.*, 2000) would indicate that a score fluctuation of plus or minus one point is attributable to variations of CISS interpretation between raters. As such, only changes of 2 or more points are recognised as 'genuine' and on that basis:

- 89.5% of patients improved
- 9.0% of patients remained the same
- 1.5% of patients got worse

Twenty-two patients achieved reductions of 10 CISS points or more. Changes of this magnitude are not uncommon among those who achieve total abstinence but would likely be perceived by the patients and their significant others as nothing short of miraculous.

Figure 7, the process of change

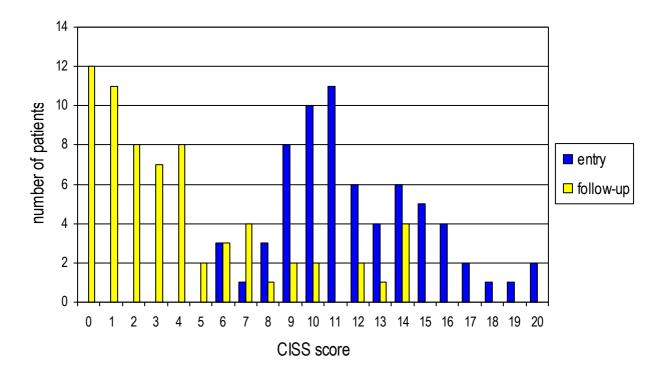


Figure 7 displays how CISS total scores are distributed among the 67 patients. Dark bars indicate the score distributions at intake and the light bars indicate score distributions at follow-up.

The average intake CISS total score of the 67 patients was 11.9 (sd = 3.3, range 6 - 20)
The average follow-up CISS total score of the 67 patients was 4.1 (sd = 4.1, range 0 - 14)
A paired sample t-test indicates this reduction to be highly significant (t = 15.2, t = 15.2)

The correlation between intake and follow-up scores is significant (r [66] = .37, p = .002). This indicates that higher follow-up levels of dysfunction are related to higher initial levels of dysfunction.

The correlation between length of follow-up period and follow-up scores is not significant (r [66] = -.19, p = .12). This suggests that improvements in functioning remain relatively stable once achieved.

Figure 8, Changes in individual CISS item scores

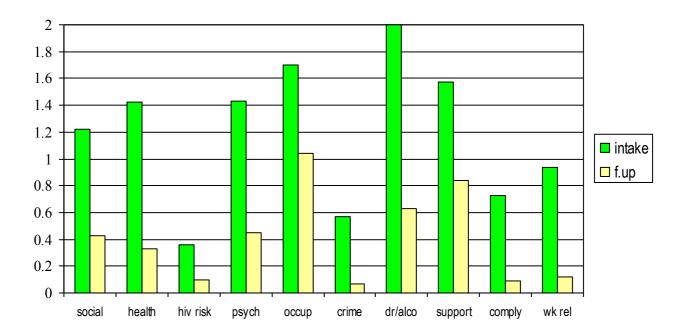


Figure 8 compares the average CISS item scores (0 to 2 scale) as assessed at intake and then again at follow-up. The taller the bars in the figure, the greater the average degree of problem within the relevant CISS domain. As can also be seen in figure 2, the greatest problems at intake were with drug or alcohol use, lack of occupation, lack of support, psychological problems and health problems.

Ten Wilcoxon Signed Ranks statistical tests indicated that the reductions in all of the 10 CISS outcome domains were highly significant. Thus indicating that reductions in drug / alcohol use were generally accompanied by improvements in all other aspects of the patients' lives.

Detailed outcomes and what they mean for the 67 patients followed-up

The CISS form is a rough indicator of professional impression of recent drug / alcohol related problems in the past month. Specific situations / behaviours are listed only as guiding examples and may not reflect the exact situations / behaviours of the patient. The CISS wording has been left intact in the following tables (tables 3 to 13) to give an idea of the actual type of dysfunction an item score of 0, 1, or 2 might indicate within each domain. The tables below illustrate the percentage of patients rated as having none, moderate or severe problems within each CISS domain at intake and then again at follow-up.

Social functioning	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	client has a stable place to live and supportive friends or relatives who are drug / alcohol free	14.9%	68.7%
Moderate problem	client's living situation may not be stable, or they may associate with drug users / heavy drinkers	47.8%	19.4%
Severe problem	living situation not stable, and they either claim to have no friends or their friends are drug users / heavy drinkers	37.3%	11.9%

General health	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	client has reported no significant health problems	7.5%	73.1%
Moderate problem	teeth/sleep problems, occasional stomach pain, collapsed vein, asymptomatic hep B / C / HIV	43.3%	20.9%
Severe problem	extreme weight loss, jaundice, abscesses / infections, coughing up blood, fever, overdoses, blackouts, seizures, significant memory loss, neurological damage, HIV symptoms	49.3%	6.0%

Sexual or injecting risk behaviour	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	client claims not to inject, or have unsafe sex (except in monogamous relationship with longstanding partner, spouse)	74.6%	92.5%
Moderate problem	may admit to occasional "unsafe" sexual encounters, or suspected to be injecting but denies sharing injecting equipment	14.9%	4.5%
Severe problem	client may admit to regular "unsafe" sexual encounters, or has recently been injecting and sharing injecting equipment	10.4%	3.0%

Psychological	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	client appears well adjusted and relatively satisfied with the way their life is going	0%	61.2%
Moderate problem	client may have low self-esteem, general anxiety, poor sleep, may be unhappy or dissatisfied with their lot	56.7%	32.8%
Severe problem	client has a neurotic disorder e.g., panic attacks, phobias, OCD, bulimia, recently attempted or seriously considered suicide, self-harm, overdose or may be clinically depressed. Or client may have psychotic disorders, paranoia (e.g., everybody is plotting against them), deluded beliefs or hallucinations (e.g. hearing voices)	43.3%	6.0%

Occupation	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	client is in full time occupation e.g., homemaker, parent, employed, or student	10.4%	35.8%
Moderate problem	client has some part time parenting, occupation or voluntary work	9.0%	23.9%
Severe problem	client is largely unoccupied with any socially acceptable pastime	80.6%	40.3%

Criminal	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
involvement			
No problem	no criminal involvement (apart from possible possession of illicit drugs for personal use)	55.2%	94.0%
Moderate problem	client suspected of irregular criminal involvement, perhaps petty fraud, petty theft, drunk driving, small scale dealing	32.8%	4.5%
Severe problem	suspected of regular criminal involvement, or breaking and entering, car theft, robbery, violence, assault	11.9%	1.5%

Drug / alcohol use	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	no recent drug / alcohol use	0%	59.7%
Moderate problem	client suspected of periodic drug / alcohol use, or else may be socially using drugs that are not considered a problem, or may be on prescribed drugs but not supplementing from other sources	0%	17.9%
Severe problem	client suspected of bingeing or regular drug / alcohol use	100%	22.4%

Ongoing support	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
NI II		4.50/	47.00/
No problem	regular attendance of AA / NA, drug free drop in centre, day centre,	4.5%	47.8%
	counselling, or treatment aftercare		
Moderate problem	patchy attendance i.e., less than once a week contact with at least	34.3%	20.9%
	one of the above		
Severe problem	client not known to be using any type of structured support	61.2%	31.3%

Compliance	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	attends all appointments and meetings on time, follows suggestions,	40.3%	92.5%
·	or complies with treatment requirements		
Moderate problem	not very reliable, or may have been reported as having an "attitude"	46.3%	6.0%
	problem or other difficulty with staff		
Severe problem	chaotic, may have left treatment against staff advice or been ejected	13.4%	1.5%
	for non-compliance e.g. drug use, attitude problem		

Working Relationship	e.g.	Intake	Follow-up
No problem	relatively easy going e.g., interviews easily, not time consuming or stressful to work with	25.4%	91.0%
Moderate problem	moderately challenging e.g., a bit demanding or time consuming, but not excessively so	55.2%	6.0%
Severe problem	quite challenging e.g., very demanding, hard work, time consuming, emotionally draining or stressful to see	19.4%	3.0%

'Success' rates among all 89 Lanarkshire patients

The following rates are conservatively based on the assumption that the 22 patients not followed-up all showed no improvement or otherwise had poor outcomes.

- Being totally abstinent from all drugs or alcohol at follow-up 45%
- Achieving low problem severity at follow-up (CISS < 6, see appendix)
 54%
- Showing any reduction in measured levels of dysfunction 67%

Discussion

Castle Craig Hospital appears to be providing a service for very dysfunctional drug or alcohol dependent people with complications from lack of support, psychological problems, health problems, poor social functioning and lack of occupation. However, good outcomes are achieved despite these high levels of dysfunction at intake. Their patients are generally more dysfunctional than those attending outpatient drug or alcohol services and it is unlikely that many of them would have been able to engage with an outpatient treatment intervention. Although the goal of Castle Craig's treatment is abstinence, it should be noted that those who fail to achieve that goal still report reduced levels of dysfunction at follow-up. Thus, even the treatment 'failures' appeared to have benefited from their experience in treatment, possibly by gaining a period of respite during which to recover from the consequences of their excessive drinking or drug use.

Castle Craig Hospital has demonstrated how easy it is to produce high quality research within the limitations of a busy service setting. The notion of evidence led practice is frequently discussed, but it could be argued that experienced practitioners already make best use of their resources. Thus, the purpose of such research could only be to illustrate that the experts know what they are doing (e.g., practice led evidence). This view may well be partially justified, as many of the findings in this study are obvious to those who are familiar with the field. However, some findings here are obvious only with the benefit of hindsight and others may yet inform better practice and commissioning.

Alford, G.S., Koehler, R.A. and Leonard, J. (1991). Alcoholics Anonymous - Narcotics Anonymous model inpatient treatment of chemically dependent adolescents: a 2-year outcome study. Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 52(2), 118-126.

The Audit Commission for Local Authorities and the National Health Service in England and Wales (2002). National report, changing habits: the commissioning and management of community drug treatment services for adults. Audit Commission Publications, Wetherby, UK, p71.

Christo, G. (1999a). Outcome monitoring: service evaluation made simple. GLAAS mailing, Issue 95 January 1999, Greater London Association of Alcohol Services.

Christo, G. (1999b). Keep it simple. Drug & Alcohol Findings, June 1999, Issue 1, p27.

Christo, G. (1999c). CISS: keeping it sweet and simple. Addiction Today, Vol 11, No 61, pp14-15.

Christo, G. (2000a). The Christo Inventory for Substance-misuse Services. In J. Maltby, C.A. Lewis, and A.P. Hill (Eds). Commissioned reviews on 300 psychological tests. Lampeter, Wales, UK: Edwin Mellen Press. p33-37.

Christo, G. (2000b). Clear classification: simple service evaluation. Druglink (ISDD journal), 15(1), 19-21

Christo, G. (2000c). CISS: keeping it sweet and simple (part 2). Addiction Today, Vol 11, No 62, pp14-15

Christo, G. (2000d). Outcome monitoring must be made easy (letter to the editor). Drug & Alcohol Findings, issue 3, p 26. (Royal Free)

Christo, G. (2000e). Outcomes of residential and day care placements for people with drug and alcohol problems: the 2000 evaluation for Hammersmith & Fulham Social Services. Hammersmith & Fulham Social Services. (Christo Research Systems)

Christo, G. (2000f). What did they get for their money? When Hammersmith & Fulham Social Services commissioned research on addiction treatments purchased by its managers, what did it discover? Dr George Christo summarises the findings and makes recommendations to help other purchasers. Addiction Today, Vol. 11, No. 65, 14-15. (Christo Research Systems)

Christo, G (2001) Running numbers: dealing with the data deluge. Druglink Vol.1, issue 3, May/June.

Christo, G. and DaSilva, V. A. (2002). A Portuguese version of the Christo Inventory for Substance-misuse Services: a simple outcome evaluation tool. Brazilian Journal of Medical and Biological Research, 35, 1111-1118.

Christo, G. & Franey, C. (1995). Drug Users' Spiritual Beliefs, Locus of Control and the Disease Concept in Relation to Narcotics Anonymous Attendance and Six-Month Outcomes. Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 38, 51-56.

Christo, G., Spurrell, S. and Alcorn, R. (2000). Validation of the Christo Inventory for Substance-misuse Services (CISS): a simple outcome evaluation tool. Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Christo, G. and Sutton, S. (1994). Anxiety and self-esteem as a function of abstinence time among recovering addicts attending Narcotics Anonymous. British Journal of Clinical Psychology, 33, 198-200.

Cook, C.H. (1988a). The Minnesota Model in the management of drug and alcohol dependency: miracle, method or myth? Part I. the philosophy and the programme. British Journal of Addiction, 83, 625-634.

Cook, C.H. (1988b). The Minnesota Model in the management of drug and alcohol dependency: miracle, method or myth? Part II. evidence and conclusions. British Journal of Addiction, 83, 735-748.

DeSoto, C.B., O'donnell, W.E. and DeSoto, J.L. (1989). Long-term recovery in alcoholics. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 13(5), 693-697.

DeSoto, C.B., O'donnell, W.E., Allred, L.J. and Lopes, C.E. (1985). Symptomatology in alcoholics at various stages of abstinence. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 9(6), 505-512.

Effective Interventions Unit (2001). Evaluation Guide 7, Using assessment data for evaluation. Effective Interventions Unit, Substance Misuse Division, Scottish Executive, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

Emrick, C.D. (1987). Alcoholics Anonymous: affiliation processes and effectiveness as treatment. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 11(5), 416-423.

Gossop M, Harris J, Best D, Man LH, Manning V, Marshall J and Strang J. (2003). Is attendance at alcoholics anonymous meetings after inpatient treatment related to improved outcomes? A 6-month follow-up study. Alcohol Alcohol, 38(5), 421-426.

Longabaugh R, Wirtz PW, Zweben A, Stout RL (1998) Network support for drinking, Alcoholics Anonymous and long-term matching effects. Addiction 93, 1313-1333.

Mann, R.E., Smart, R.G., Anglin, L. and Adlaf, E.M. (1991). Reductions in cirrhosis deaths in the United States: associations with per capita consumption and AA membership. Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 52(4), 361-365.

McCown, W. (1989). The relationship between impulsivity, empathy and involvement in twelve step self-help substance abuse treatment groups. British Journal of Addiction, 84, 391-393.

McCown, W. (1990). The effect of impulsivity and empathy on abstinence of poly- substance abusers: a prospective study. British Journal of Addiction, 85, 635-637.

McLatchie, B.H. and Lomp, KGE, (1988). Alcoholics Anonymous affiliation and treatment outcome among a clinical sample of problem drinkers. American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 14(3), 309-324.

Ouimette PC, Finney JW, Moos RH (1997). Twelve-step and cognitive--behavioral treatment for substance abuse: a comparison of treatment effectiveness. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 65, 230-240.

Project MATCH (1997). Matching Alcoholism Treatments to Client Heterogeneity: Project MATCH posttreatment drinking outcomes. Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 58, 7-29.

Appendix, CISS comparison scores

Comparisons for interpreting CISS total score (sum of item scores)

Abstinence based treatment outcomes: Six-month outcomes for 90 treated drug users from abstinence based treatment centres

In the month before follow-up: Good outcome: 48 were abstinent and average CISS score was 2.9 (sd = 1.9)

Poor outcome: 42 had used drugs and average CISS score was 10.6 (sd = 4.3)

Over entire six month period: Good outcome: 33 remained abstinent* and average CISS score was 2.9 (sd = 2.0)

Good outcome: 22 had a lapse* and average CISS score was 4.5 (sd = 2.9)
Poor outcome: 35 had a relapse* and average CISS score was 11.2 (sd = 4.5)

N.B. a CISS cut-off score of 6 or less can be used to indicate "good outcome" for abstinence based treatment. This correctly identified 88% of outcomes where drug use was assessed only in month before follow-up, and 84% of outcomes where drug use was assessed over the entire six-month follow-up period.

Harm minimisation prescribing based service score distribution:

Average CISS score among 243 clients at a London community drug service = 9.1 (sd = 3.4)

16% obtained CISS scores in range 0 to 5 = low problem severity
67% obtained CISS scores in range 6 to 12 = average problem severity
17% obtained CISS scores in range 13 to 20= high problem severity

Outpatient alcohol service score distribution:

Average CISS score among 102 clients at a London community alcohol service = 8.1 (sd = 3.4)

15% obtained CISS scores in range 0 to 4 = low problem severity
70% obtained CISS scores in range 5 to 11 = average problem severity
15% obtained CISS scores in range 12 to 20= low problem severity
average problem severity

Alcohol users generally score one CISS point less than drug users. Alcohol users are less likely to score on problems of social functioning, HIV risk behaviour and criminal involvement, but they are more likely to score on psychological problems.

References

- Christo, G. (1998). Outcomes of residential care placements for people with drug and alcohol problems. The Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour.
- Christo, G., Spurrell, S. and Alcorn, R. (2000). Validation of the Christo Inventory for Substance-misuse Services (CISS): a simple outcome evaluation tool. Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 59, 189-197.
- Sobell, L.C., Sobell, M.B., Leo, G.I. and Caneilla, A. (1988). Reliability of a timeline method: assessing normal drinkers' reports of recent drinking and a comparative evaluation across several populations. British Journal of Addiction, 83, 393-402.
- Walton, M.A., Castro, F.G. and Barrington, E.H. (1994). The role of attributions in abstinence, lapse, and relapse following substance abuse treatment. Addictive Behaviors, 19(3), 319-331.

CISS Website http://users.breathemail.net/drgeorgechristo/

© 2000 George Christo PhD, PsychD.

^{*} Lapse status was assessed using an eight-level scaling of lapse / relapse outcomes (as defined by Walton et al., 1994). Drug use over the entire six-month follow-up period was assessed using the principle of Timeline Follow Back (Sobell et al., 1988), as adapted for drug use by Walton et al. (1994).