Evaluation of the scientific activity in addictive substances allows to have an overview of the research output (Ribeiro Schneider et al., 2014). The present study aims to analyze the trends of production and citation in the main addictive substances researched in the period 2008-2012 through the Web of Science Core Collection.

Methods

Bibliographic data set retrieved and normalized by the Melero-Fuentes study (2015) was used for develop this analysis. The ICD-10 (World Health Organization, 1992) and DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) were used to classify the articles.

Results

The most studied addictive substances are nicotine (34.32%; n=15,385) and alcohol (30.9%; n=13,849). Between 7.62% and 1.08% are followed by the study of opioids, amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine and caffeine (Table 1).

The most cited addictive substances are tobacco (118,268 citations) and alcohol (96,456) respectively. They are followed by studies on opioids (26,385 citations), cocaine (23,539 citations), cannabis (23,274 citations) and amphetamines (22,331 citations). Studies of these last three substances have a higher average number of citations received per article than tobacco and alcohol studies (Table 1).

Joint study (see Figure 2) of nicotine and alcohol has been the most developed (n=1,209), followed by the study of alcohol and cannabis (n=386), cannabis and nicotine (n=331); amphetamines and cocaine (n=327), cocaine and opioids (n = 288), and opioids and alcohol (n=255).

Discussion

In general, there is a greater interest in the study of depressant (alcohol and opioids) and stimulant substances (nicotine, cocaine and amphetamines) than in the study of disturbance substances (cannabis). Alcohol and tobacco (legal drugs) are the most studied substances, probably because they are the most worldwide consumed, easily accessible, the most socially accepted and the most problematic.

The study of cannabis, the most commonly used illegal substance, is underrepresented in the analysis. Perhaps the growing process of standardization of its consumption, reduction in its association with extreme behavior and lower social stigmization, can explain this finding. Some substances that are less studied or even ignored are herbal medicines, synthetic stimulants, hallucinogenic substances and volatile solvents.

The most cited addictive substances are tobacco (118,268 citations) and alcohol (96,456) respectively. They are followed by studies on opioids (26,385 citations), cocaine (23,539 citations), cannabis (23,274 citations) and amphetamines (22,331 citations). Studies of these last three substances have a higher average number of citations received per article than tobacco and alcohol studies.

Joint study (see Figure 2) of nicotine and alcohol has been the most developed (n=1,209), followed by the study of alcohol and cannabis (n=386), cannabis and nicotine (n=331); amphetamines and cocaine (n=327), cocaine and opioids (n = 288), and opioids and alcohol (n=255).

**References**


