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What does the hamilton depression rating scale measure in methamphetamine users?

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The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAMD) is widely used in studies to measure change in the severity of depression. There are reports of established reliability and validity of the HAMD in both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric patients. However, there are no published psychometric studies of the HAMD in a methamphetamine using population. Given that the symptoms of depression and intoxication or withdrawal from methamphetamine overlap, it is possible that the HAMD does not measure severity of depression in individuals who use methamphetamine. Thus, we are conducting a psychometric evaluation of the HAMD in methamphetamine users with and without depression. This evaluation is currently underway, and we anticipate having results in 6-8 weeks.

Biography

Tracy L Hellem completed the PhD program at the University of Utah's College of Nursing in 2015. She has worked with methamphetamine users with comorbid depression for 5 years. She has authored 14 manuscripts of systematic reviews, clinical trials and magnetic resonance spectroscopy studies. Dr. Hellem is an Assistant Professor at Montana State University's College of Nursing where she conducts a clinical trial of comorbid depression and anxiety among individuals who use methamphetamine.

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