

Special Issue

Gambling Disorder: Challenges in Diagnosis, Etiology and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editors

Gambling disorder is a well-recognized behavioral addictive disorder which affects a substantial number of patients, their families, and society in many settings worldwide. This disorder is receiving increasing attention from researchers and clinicians, but several challenges remain with respect to treatment evidence, as well as treatment-seeking opportunities and challenges in the clinical treatment and diagnosis of gambling disorder and its comorbidities. Specifically, treatment-seeking is low in many settings, and in the treatment provided, short-term and long-term follow-up studies are relatively few. Additionally, the gambling patterns worldwide are changing, which may present new challenges to clinicians and to prevention and treatment interventions. More research is needed in order to better understand different etiologies of gambling disorder and how these may translate into clinical challenges, and more studies are needed in the treatment methods, patient outcomes, and specific challenges in diagnostic and therapeutic work in specific sub-groups of gambling disorder patients.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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