K42 DUI on Sunday at the Occasion of a Disco Weekend in the City of Bern, Switzerland: DUI Case Reports

Werner Bernhard, DSc, Beat Aebi, PhD, and Martina Gasse, BSc, Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Bern, Buehlstrasse 20, Bern 3012, Switzerland*

Authors will present recent DUI cases and to learn about the strategy to face this problem. Young adults using recreational drugs during the weekend often drive cars without showing distinct signs of impairment. These drivers, however, are a road safety problem.

A discotheque located near the main rail station in Bern reopens after a break of one hour its doors on Sunday at 5:00 am. The customers are usually socially integrated smart looking people. It is well known that this discotheque is a place where drugs are sold and consumed as well. Between April 24, 2002, and April 13, 2003, the police made six specific traffic controls checking customers driving off this place.

Methods: The drivers were checked by the police at the nearby station. The police used urine tests indicating Amphetamines, Cannabis, Opiates and Cocaine and a breathalyzer. The police filled in the Police report of suspected inability to drive safely. For the positive cases the next step was the medical examination. The MD took two blood samples and filled in the report of medical examination. In the laboratory the urine screening was performed by EMIT or in special cases by GC/MS. Alcohol was determined in the blood sample by head-space GC-FID. The quantitative determination of drugs in the blood samples was performed by GC/MS (opiates, THC, THC - COOH, cocaine, EME, BE), GC-NPD or HPLC-DAD (basic drugs), GC-ECD (benzodiazepines). The results were reported to the legal authorities.

At the occasion of the six specific traffic controls a total of 74 DUID cases were detected. In 15 of these cases Alcohol was present as well. Most of the persons showed Polytoxikomanie. Cannabis, Amphetamines and Cocaine were the most encountered drugs in these cases.

DUI, Amphetamines, Cocaine

 ** Presenting Author*