



ISFAHAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
**PSYCHIATRY** DEPARTMENT

Thesis for obtaining the specialty degree in Psychiatry

**Title:**

**Effect of add-on valproate on craving in  
Methamphetamine-Depended patients**

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## **Abstract**

**Background and Aims:** Methamphetamine dependence is a recurrent and chronic disorder that is related to neurobiological changes lead to the compulsive use, loss of control and social and occupational dysfunctions. This study aimed to compare the Effectiveness of Adding Valproate and Placebo in Reducing the Craving in Methamphetamine-Dependent Patients during Treatment with Matrix Program.

**Methods:** This is a randomized, double-blind, controlled clinical trial on 40 men of 18 to 40 years old referred to Addiction Treatment Center of Noor hospital to attend meetings of matrix program during December 2012 to September 2013. Descriptive indices of Cocaine Craving Questionnaire- Brief (CCQ-Brief) score, after screening the subjects were participated in matrix program and randomly were divided into two groups of Valproate and placebo .A 4-months program of intervention with Valproate or placebo was arranged for each group. The ratio of positive methamphetamine urine tests and the frequency of drug complications were evaluated in both groups every 2 weeks by a resident of psychiatry. All analyzes performed by SPSS20 using ANCOVA Repeated Measure, Chi square and t-test.

**Results:** There was no significant difference in demographic variables of two groups ( $p>0.05$ ). Descriptive indices of CCQ score of intervention group was significantly less than placebo group ( $p<0.001$ ), except on weeks 1, 3 and 28. The average of CCQ in the first week is significantly different from all the weeks of the study except week 28. The ratio of positive tests in both groups in all weeks 3 and 28, were significantly different.

**Conclusion:** There are not reported the satisfactory effects on pharmacological treatments and there are only reported the reduction of craving to Methamphetamine by Valproate, so it is necessary to study the larger and more comprehensive samples in more periods in different doses of Valproate.

**Keywords:** Valproate, Methamphetamine, Matrix Program

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