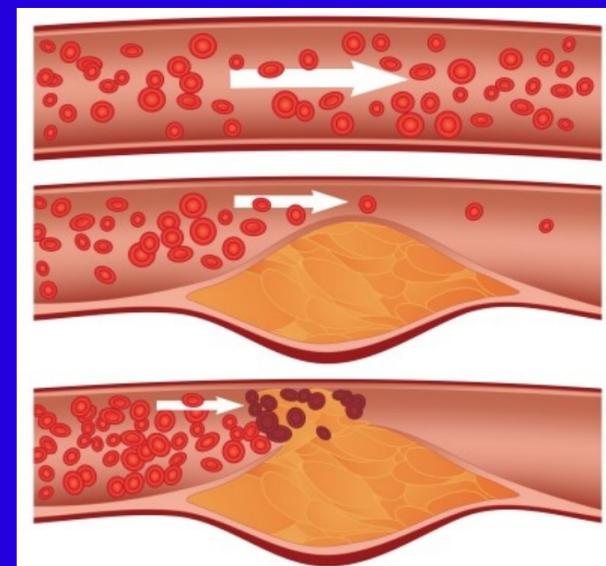


# HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF CEREBRAL VESSELS SECONDARY TO DRUG ABUSE

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## INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse represents a significant health issue with tremendous socioeconomic consequences. Numerous narcotic substances exist, but most commonly abused ones are heroin, cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine. A broad spectrum of changes affecting the central nervous system is observed in drug addicts and it is believed that histopathological changes of the cerebral vessels can lead to neuronal function deterioration, cognitive decline and psychosocial changes that are seen in drug addicts.



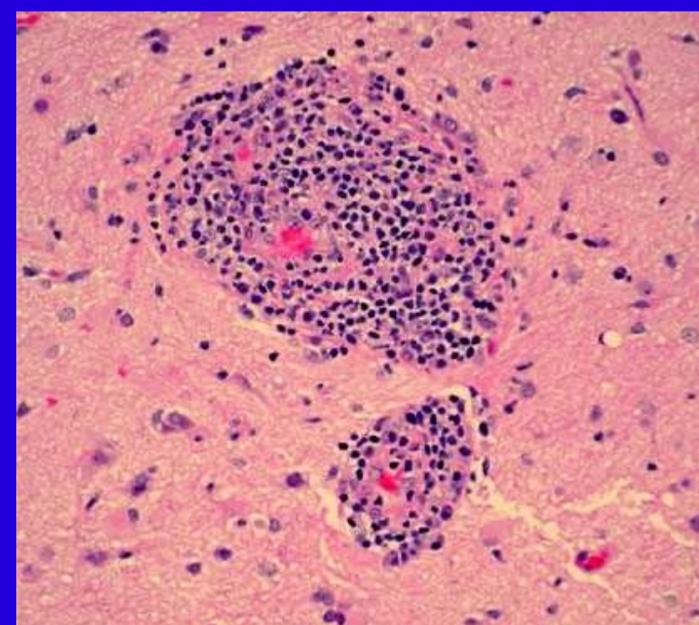
Atherosclerosis

## MATERIALS & METHODS

We have conducted a post-mortem (autopsy) study on cerebral vessels of drug abusers comparing them with healthy controls.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

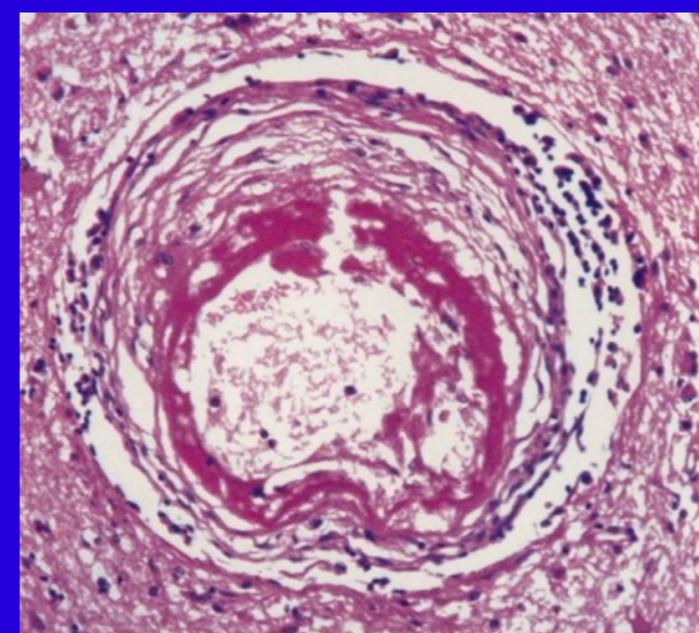
Histopathological changes observed on drug abusers' cerebral vessels include vascular lumen thrombosis, atherosclerosis, platelet aggregation, transmural and perivascular infiltration of small cerebral vessels by inflammatory cells, granulomas, dilatation of perivascular spaces with protein exudate and fibrinoid necrosis of the medium and intima.



Perivascular inflammatory infiltrate

## CONCLUSION

These changes are the consequences of vessel wall ischaemia and cerebrovascular diseases (infection, vasculitis), usually observed on drug abusers, and can lead to vascular thrombosis or rupture.



Fibrinoid necrosis

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was conducted with the support of IKY Fellowships of Excellence for postgraduate studies in Greece – Siemens Program.