INTRODUCTION
Craving was a strong predictor of substance use after an exposition of cues: “cues-craving-use” as behavioral model of addiction (Fatseas et al., 2015)

Validated in daily life among patients in addiction outpatient clinic during the first 2 weeks of treatment

Model of addiction “cues-craving-use” could be influenced by treatment context, due to reduce or stop substance use, or to external factors

Way in which experiments are developed has been recognized as a determinant of experienced craving (Tiffany, 2012)

Interest to determine if the prospective link between craving and substance use behavior (use, infection risk practices) is found in active substance users in an environment that is “substance-use-friendly” as harm reduction (HR) programs

HR interventions aim to reduce the harm that substance cause to individuals without necessarily reducing substance use

OBJECTIVE
To determine whether craving predict substance use among active substance users recruited in Harm reduction programs, a “substance-use friendly” environment

METHODS
Participants
Active problematic substance use and Current substance use disorder for :

- Opiates, sedatives, cocaine or other stimulant

Harm reduction setting (needle exchange program)
Bordeaux, South West, France

Used by injected or based route

EMA: Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA)
Real-time data collection
Evaluation in the natural environment of the subject
Repeated assessments across the day (4/day)

Procedure
Inclusion

14-day EMA period

Substance use
- Main problematic substance (yes/no)
- Number of use of main substance since the last assessment (mean)
- Craving intensity (Seven-point scale)
- Maximum level since the last assessment

Cues exposure
- Standards cues
- Person cues
- Infectious risk practices
- Reuse or sharing materials

Electronic Interviews
- 0.4 per day
- Beep call

Statistical Analyses
Hierarchical linear and non-linear models :

TO: predictor
Cues: standard or personal

T1: outcome

Substance use
Cocaine

Craving

Risk practices

RESULTS
Sample characteristics
- N=19, 37.1 y.o. (SD: 9)
- 58 % males
- Unemployed 95%

EMA Reports
- Response rate to electronic interviews: 75%

Graph:

Determinants of craving, use and infectious risk practices

T0

T1

Substance specific cues

Craving

Risk practices

Craving

Substance use

Craving

Substance use

Predictors of Craving

- Higher craving predicted by previous substance use, substance use aggravates craving few hours later
- Not predicted by person-specific cues in our study

→ In contrast with literature among patients in treatment attempting to quit (Fatseas et al. 2015)

Predictors of Use and infection risk practices

- Increased level of craving predicted subsequent substance use but not higher infection risk practices

→ Use increases craving, forcing to use again to relieve the craving increased = Loss of control

If craving is managed, a decrease in use and controlled use can be expected?

CONCLUSION
Craving seems to be the core of the behavioral loss of control dimension of addiction disorder among active substance users

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