Drug abuse - current status in Japan -

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Drug abuse is the important social problem to be resolved in Japan and also in the world. In Japan, stimulants such as methamphetamine have been illegally sold and used in the public after the World War 2. Irrespective of the nationwide fight against the use of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs, there still be in the uncontrolled social status. Additionally, stimulant-derived compounds, such as methylenedioxy-derivatives MDMA and MDA, phenethylamines- and tryptamine-derivatives have been distributed widely. Under these social status, Japanese scientists have developed various analytical methods and finally established as the methods just like formulary. Specifically, The Pharmaceutical Society of Japan comprises the Committee on Analytical Methods for Drugs and Chemicals and publishes and distributed timely the deliberated and established methods to public. The newly and currently appearing cathinone and its related derivatives, cannabinoid receptor agonists, such as aminoalkylindoles, cyclohexyphenyl compounds, and THC analogs, in the illicit drug market have been evaluated and published by the Committee. In this lecture, various aspects of drug abuse happened in Japan will be discussed.