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PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS COMORBIDITY: FOCUSING ON PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

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Objective:

- To describe personality characteristics in personality disorders (PDs) patients with substance use disorders (SUDs) comorbidity.

Methods:

- Data on demographic, family, and clinical factors were gathered among subjects admitted to our dual diagnosis unit who met DSM-IV criteria for PDs and had comorbidity with SUDs.
- To explore the psychometric characteristics we used the Temperament and Character Inventory-Revised (TCI-R).

Results:

- Overall, 32 subjects were assessed (72% males; mean age $38,4 \pm 7,3$). Mean length of admission was $17,6 \pm 7,5$ days. Suicide attempt/ideation (50%) and behaviour disruption (19%) were main symptoms at admittance. Main drugs were alcohol (59,4%) and cocaine (15,6%); 24% had polydrug dependence (3 or more SUDs).
- TCI results showed a profile characterized by low self-directness (78,1%), low cooperativeness (46,9%) and high novelty seeking (31,3%).
- Sedative SUDs group (including alcohol, cannabis, and benzodiazepines SUDs) showed higher scores in asthenia ($70,6 \pm 2$ vs. $57,52 \pm 3,2$; $p=0,002$), and locus of control ($44,8 \pm 4,1$ vs. $31,4 \pm 32,6$; $p=0,039$) than stimulant SUDs group (including cocaine and amphetamine-like SUDs).
- Polydrug dependence group had higher scores in spiritual acceptance ($63,6 \pm 4,2$ vs. $49,9 \pm 2$; $p=0,003$).
- The older group (38 thru highest) had higher scores in cooperativeness ($44,8 \pm 3,2$ vs. $35,7 \pm 3,1$; $p=0,05$) and compassion ($47,9 \pm 3,7$ vs. $36,2 \pm 3,8$; $p=0,03$).

Conclusions:

- We found a profile characterized by low scores in self-directness and cooperativeness as seen in previous surveys.
- The older patients seems attenuate some maladaptative personality characteristics.