

to measure fundamental dimensions of personality suggested to correlate with specific neurotransmitter functions.

Supposed that suicidal behaviour is associated with changes in the central serotonergic system, there could be an association between genotypes related to the serotonergic transmission and predisposition to suicidal behaviour. Furthermore, there could be a relation between the temperament dimension harm avoidance (HA) of the TCI, which is suggested to correlate with the serotonergic system, and suicidal behaviour.

We studied candidate genes in a sample of unrelated patients with a lifetime history of suicide attempts and healthy controls searching for a possible association between polymorphic DNA markers of the serotonin transporter (SERT), the serotonin 2A receptor (5-HT<sub>2A</sub>), and suicidal behaviour.

Fourty two unrelated patients (29 females, 13 males, mean age 37.5 yrs) suffering from bipolar affective disorder (n = 25), schizoaffective disorder (n = 9), and unipolar affective disorder (n = 8) (blind consensus diagnoses, DSMIV) with a lifetime history of suicide attempts and 84 healthy controls (57 females, 27 males, mean age 33 yrs) were examined. A self-report questionnaire was done by each participant, giving measures for four personality (harm avoidance, novelty seeking, reward dependence persistence) and three character dimensions.

Differences in genotype distribution in suicide attempters compared to controls concerning SERT as well as 5-HT<sub>2a</sub> did not reach significance. Patients with a positive lifetime history of suicide scored significantly higher on HA (p < 0.000) and RD (p = 0.0049) in the TCI than controls. We could not find any association between two genes related to the serotonergic system and suicidal behaviour. Concerning the TCI, our results support the hypothesized association between Harm Avoidance and suicidal behaviour. The impact of the high scoring on RD in our patients, has to be further investigated.

### P01.105

#### ALPHA-1-ACID GLYCOPROTEIN AND SUICIDALITY IN MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

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**a) Background:** Diurnal concordance of human platelet serotonin content and plasma alpha-1-acid glycoprotein (AGP) levels was found. A negative relationship between platelet serotonin concentration and suicidal behavior was described in major depression. Therefore, studies focusing on the possible role of AGP as a putative marker of suicidal behavior are warranted.

**b) Methods:** Plasma AGP levels were measured in 36 subjects with major depressive disorder. Comparative analysis between 6 depressives who made suicide attempt in current episode, 18 depressives who had suicidal thoughts and 12 non-suicidal depressives was performed.

**c) Results:** Depressed patients attempting suicide during the current episode had significantly (P < 0.04) lower plasma levels of AGP than non-suicidal depressed patients.

**d) Conclusions:** Acute suicidality in major depressed patients is associated with low AGP plasma levels.

### P01.106

#### ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION SECONDARY TO PARTNERS VAGINISMUS: CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE: CASE REPORTS

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The study of human sexuality seems to be under the influence of many cultural and social factors like the heavy emphasis on male's erectile and penetration capability.

This paper presents three cases admitted to a university psychiatric clinic in Turkey who had erectile difficulty, developed secondary to their partners vaginismus. All cases were evaluated by a data sheet that was adapted and modified from the classification of psychological causes of sexual dysfunction by K. Hawton. The modified Zilbergeld's myths form was used to screen the false beliefs about sexuality.

All cases and their partners, thought that it was male-responsibility to have a satisfactory erection and penetration although they were all aware of vaginismus. They defined vaginismus late in the course of therapy.

Cultural and social factors must be considered during the evaluation of sexual dysfunctions

### P01.107

#### PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY OR SPECIALISATION OF PSYCHIATRIC IN-PATIENT CARE (PART 2)

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**Objective:** Which effects do the transfer of an acute psychiatric ward to a general hospital have as the patients see it?

**Method:** The present study was realised at the Centre for Psychiatry Weissenau/Ravensburg. In May 1999 the ward serving the rural region of Allgäu was transferred to the general hospital in Wangen, which is situated within this area. Patients with psychotic disorders, affective disorders, alcohol abusos and gerontopsychiatric patients residing in the Allgäu were investigated from November 1998 until the End of April 2000. The patients with residence in the region of Bodensee West served as control group.

**Results:** Subjective data according patient satisfaction, community treatment, and specialisation of treatment, were obtained by interview. We will present group comparisons both before and after the transfer and between study and control group.

**Discussion:** The advantages of specialised psychiatric hospitals versus psychiatric wards at general hospitals are often ideologically discussed. Specialisation on the one hand faces higher proximity to the community on the other. Part 2 of our study will supply subjective data from the patients' view that will contribute to clarify this debate.

### P01.108

#### CHANGES OF QUALITY OF LIFE OF HIV/AIDS PATIENTS IN COMPARISON WITH A CONTROL GROUP

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**Background:** The aim of this study is to explore whether HIV patients have a lower general quality of life in comparison with a control group, and which domains of their lives are affected the most.