

P-1261 - INTERNAL SHAME AND PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

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Introduction: Whilst shame has an important role in shaping psychopathology, nonetheless it is often a feeling ignored. Therefore, the etiologic role of psychosis requires further investigation.

Objective: This study examined the role of internal shame on psychiatric patients.

Aim: The present study evaluated internal shame in psychiatric patients who were cared by the Department of Psychiatry at University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, Greece.

Method: 45 patients suffering from schizophrenia participated (18 men and 27 women with mean age 44.09 SD=11.55, ranged 19-75). The measuring tools used were: a) the Experience of Shame Scale (ESS), b) a questionnaire concerning socio-demographic information.

Results: High levels of internal shame were observed among patients. In specific, the average of the internal shame (ESS total) was 52.31 ± 12.76 , without having statistically significant difference among gender in their comparison with the t-Test ($p = .859$). This is much higher than the average normal external shame in Greek population (47.09 ± 13.69). The analysis of variance between age groups showed that age, place of residence and educational level did not affect the internal shame in psychotic patients. Marital status had a significant effect on internal shame of psychotic patients where the application of the Bonferonni criterion found that unmarried participants demonstrated a statistical significant difference from those divorced ($p = .020$), the latter had higher levels of internal shame.

Conclusion: Psychiatric patients have high levels of internal shame and this shame is a constant factor in placing the individual and not a transient response to specific situations.