

## 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  $52.31 \pm 12.76$ , 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 ( $47.09 \pm 13.69$ ). 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.