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TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTER TRAITS IN WOMEN WITH SUICIDAL ATTEMPT

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This presentation will provide preliminary results of an ongoing study of personality traits and personality disorders in women with suicidal attempt.

42 women with suicidal attempt were according to the results of the administrated Scale for measuring severity of suicidal attempt /Pierc/ divided into two groups: I -women with severe suicidal attempt, II - others. Control group was matched for age, marital status and educational level. Additionally, the subject's temperament and character traits were rated using Cloningers Temperament and Character Inventory - TCI.

One Way ANOVA yielded significant difference /p<#61500;0.05/ between groups I and II in NS /exploratory excitability/ and CO /helpfulness/, while group with suicidal attempt I and II/ and controls differs in HA and SD. In group with suicidal attempt 73% meet DSM IV criteria for Personality disorder, and among them, 85% belong to cluster C /anxious/. In women with suicidal attempt, 75% had melancholic character type according to the TCI.

This findings suggest that there is significant difference in temperament and character traits according to the severity of suicidal attempt and shows high incidence of personality disorder, cluster C, in women with suicidal attempt.

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SEROTONIN TRANSPORTER AND SEROTONIN RECEPTOR GENES POLYMORPHISMS IN THE RUSSIAN PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND AFFECTIVE DISORDERS

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Serotonin-system genetic polymorphism is supposed to be associated with various psychiatric disorders. However, positive findings have not been confirmed in all studies. We investigated two serotonin transporter gene polymorphisms (5HTT VNTR and 5HTTLPR) and serotonin receptor (5HTR2A) gene 102T/C polymorphism in 437 patients with psychoses (schizophrenia and affective disorders) diagnosed according ICD-10 criteria and in 277 controls of Russian origin. No significant differences have been observed between affected and control subjects for 5HTT VNTR polymorphism. The 5HTTLPR "ss" and 5HTR2A 2/2 genotype frequencies were significantly higher in schizophrenics as compared to controls (p = 0.004; OR = 2.84 95% CI 1.4–5.77 and p = 0.0009; OR = 2.7 95% CI 1.45–4.91, respectively). Distribution of the genotype combinations was also significantly associated with schizophrenic disorders (p = 0.0067). Two 5HTR2A and 5HTTLPR genotype combinations, namely, 1/1-II and 1/1-I, were significantly lower in the patients comparing to controls (p = 0.0035 and p = 0.0059, respectively). The excess of these genotype combinations among the controls implies their possible protective role in disease manifestation.

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CONTINGENT NEGATIVE VARIATION IN DEPRESSION: RELATIONSHIP WITH PERSONALITY

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a) Background: Contingent Negative Variation (CNV) is an event-related brain potential which has been applied in depression with controversial results. A major source for these controversial results could result from the diversity of depressed patients included in the different studies. Supporting this assumption, several studies have reported that impulsivity, blunted affect, and suicidal behavior significantly influence CNV amplitude. Since personality is related to CNV in normal subjects, the aim of the present study is to investigate the relationship between CNV and the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI) in 52 depressed patients.

b) Design: The subjects were 30 men and 22 women with a mean age of 40.1 years. All patients met the DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder. They completed a French version of the TCI within the day following the CNV paradigm. The CNV paradigm consisted of a warning stimulus followed 1 s later by an imperative stimulus.

c) Results: CNV amplitude is correlated with self-transcendence dimension (r = 0.37, p = 0.02). The other dimensions are not correlated with CNV amplitude.

d) Conclusion: This study suggests that lower CNV amplitude could be associated with psychotic traits (high self-transcendence scores) in depression.

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P300 EVENT-RELATED POTENTIAL AND PERSONALITY IN DEPRESSION

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a) Background: P300 is an event-related brain potential particularly interesting in the study of cognitive processes in normal subjects and in psychopathology. P300 has been applied in depression with controversial results. A major source for these controversial results could result from the diversity of depressed patients included in the different studies. Supporting this assumption, impulsivity, blunted affect, suicidal behavior and psychotic features significantly influence P300 amplitude. Since personality is related to P300 in normal subjects, the aim of the present study is to investigate the relationship between P300 and the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI) in depressed patients. The model of Cloninger is of interest to study the relationship between P300 and personality because it shares some theoretical constructs with P300.

b) Design: Subjects were 30 men and 22 women with a mean age of 40.1 years. All patients met the DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder. They completed the TCI within the day following the P300 paradigm.

c) Results: Personality is weakly related to P300 amplitude, latency and reaction time in depression. The only significant correlation relates P300 amplitude at Pz location and self-directedness (r = 0.29, p = 0.03).

d) Conclusion: The relationship between P300 amplitude and this dimension could indicate that lower P300 amplitude is observed in more disturbed depressed patients, probably with a personality disorder comorbidity. However, the preliminary nature of the presented results with respect to the weak statistical significance should be underlined.