

P01-16

EFFECTS OF PERSONALITY TRAITS AND PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITY ON  
PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS'SYMPATOMATOLOGY

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Aims: To evaluate, in a sample of pathological gamblers, the effects of personality traits and psychiatric comorbidity on the severity of this condition.

Methods: 40 patients were evaluated with the following instruments: EuropASI, modified for pathological gambling; MINI; TCI, and BIS-11. Univariate linear regression analyses were conducted to evaluate the relationships between different scales.

Results: Age of onset was influenced by Novelty Seeking and NS-1 subscale, with higher scores related to earlier onset, Harm Avoidance 2 subscale, with higher scores related to a later onset; the presence of a lifetime panic disorder was related with a later onset; A positive correlation was found between age of onset of pathological gambling and both cigarettes and cannabis smoking. Higher NS1 scores were related to a higher amount of money spent during the last month, while higher scores on the HA2 and Cooperativeness 5 subscales were related to a lesser number of days in which the patient had gambled during the last month. Moreover, higher scores in Gambling severity scores are related with the presence of a comorbid alcohol or substance abuse or dependence, dysthymia, post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar II mood disorder, and with higher BIS-11 Motor Impulsiveness, Non-planned Impulsiveness and total scores.

Conclusions: Personality traits and psychiatric comorbidity influence the age of onset of gambling, the severity of gambling and the functional and economic impact of the disease on the patient's life. An evaluation of these aspects is needed to determine treatment options with a greater understanding of the phenomenon.