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**PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS COMORBIDITY: FOCUSING ON PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS**

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**Objective:**

- To describe personality characteristics in personality disorders (PDs) patients with substance use disorders (SUDs) comorbidity.

**Methods:**

- Data on demographic, family, and clinical factors were gathered among subjects admitted to our dual diagnosis unit who met DSM-IV criteria for PDs and had comorbidity with SUDs.
- To explore the psychometric characteristics we used the Temperament and Character Inventory-Revised (TCI-R).

**Results:**

- Overall, 32 subjects were assessed (72% males; mean age  $38,4 \pm 7,3$ ). Mean length of admission was  $17,6 \pm 7,5$  days. Suicide attempt/ideation (50%) and behaviour disruption (19%) were main symptoms at admittance. Main drugs were alcohol (59,4%) and cocaine (15,6%); 24% had polydrug dependence (3 or more SUDs).
- TCI results showed a profile characterized by low self-directness (78,1%), low cooperativeness (46,9%) and high novelty seeking (31,3%).
- Sedative SUDs group (including alcohol, cannabis, and benzodiazepines SUDs) showed higher scores in asthenia ( $70,6 \pm 2$  vs.  $57,52 \pm 3,2$ ;  $p=0,002$ ), and locus of control ( $44,8 \pm 4,1$  vs.  $31,4 \pm 32,6$ ;  $p=0,039$ ) than stimulant SUDs group (including cocaine and amphetamine-like SUDs).
- Polydrug dependence group had higher scores in spiritual acceptance ( $63,6 \pm 4,2$  vs.  $49,9 \pm 2$ ;  $p=0,003$ ).
- The older group (38 thru highest) had higher scores in cooperativeness ( $44,8 \pm 3,2$  vs.  $35,7 \pm 3,1$ ;  $p=0,05$ ) and compassion ( $47,9 \pm 3,7$  vs.  $36,2 \pm 3,8$ ;  $p=0,03$ ).

**Conclusions:**

- We found a profile characterized by low scores in self-directness and cooperativeness as seen in previous surveys.
- The older patients seems attenuate some maladaptative personality characteristics.