

P02-397 - PERSONALITY PROFILE OR POSTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER? PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS IN WOMEN VICTIM OF CHRONIC INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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Objective: To study whether there are personality characteristics that discriminate between IPV women and non-abused control women, taking into account the effect of emotional state (depressive symptoms).

Method: A total of 176 women victim of IPV and 193 non-abused control women were assessed with the Dimensional Assessment of Personality Pathology (DAPP-BQ; Livesley, 1990), the Beck Depression Inventory -II (BDI-II; Beck, 1996), and the Index of Spouse Abuse (ISA; Hudson & McIntosh, 1981). Women victim of IPV were recruited from Domestic Violence Centers, and non-abused control women were recruited from Primary Care Centers and Mental Health Services. A two way analysis of variance (IPV * Depression) were used for detecting differences in personality traits taking into account the effect of depression (BDI \geq 17).

Results: After controlling for depression, IPV victims scored higher than control women in *submissiveness* ($F=6.41$; $p=0.01$), *cognitive distortion* ($F=4.35$; $p=0.04$), *intimacy problems* ($F=27.02$; $p<0.001$), *suspiciousness* ($F=5.02$; $p=0.03$) and *self-harm* ($F=4.93$; $p=0.03$), and lower in *rejection* ($F=14.66$; $p<0.001$).

Conclusions: IPV victims showed high submission, low hostility, intimacy problems, suspiciousness, tendency to depersonalization or derealization, and suicidal ideation and attempts, as a result of chronic abuse. Some of these aspects could be explained by the presence of PTSD, more than by pre-existing personality characteristics. Traumatic and chronic stress can alter functional aspects of the brain and lead to the development of dysfunctional cognitive and behavioral characteristics that may be considered in the psychotherapeutic approach.