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Personality types of cluster B: Similarities and dissimilarities in a Tunisian psychiatric outpatient unit

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Background and Aims: Cluster B personality disorders are the most common in psychiatric patients and are correlated with specific characteristics. However, dissimilarities may be noticed between different personality types.

This study aimed to compare sociodemographic and clinical features of patients with varied types of this cluster.

Methods: It's a comparative study held in the psychiatric outpatient unit. All five years first time attendances to the unit were retrospectively examined in order to identify those with diagnosis of cluster B personality disorder according to DSM-IV criteria (N=81). Statistical comparisons were performed for sociodemographic features, medical history and axis I comorbidity.

Results: Antisocial personality was the most common (n=32), followed by histrionic (n=28), then borderline personality (n=19).

Patients with antisocial personality were mainly of male gender (p<10-4) and had more antecedents of incarcerations (p<10-4) than the remainder.

Patients with borderline personality had reported less alcohol (p=0.035) and prescribed drugs (p=0.01) use than patients with antisocial personality and more alcohol use (p=0.013) than patients with histrionic personality. History of alcohol (p<10-4), cannabis (0.002) and prescribed drugs (p<10-4) use was more frequent in antisocial compared to histrionic personality. Also, patients with histrionic personality had more conversion disorder than those with antisocial personality (p=0.001).

Conclusion: Cluster B personality disorders seem to share similar family and personal past medical history, but are very different in matter of substance use and comorbid conversion disorder. These findings support the idea that adapted psychiatric care is needed for each type of cluster B personality disorder.

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Medico-Legal acts and epilepsy

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Introduction: The « epileptic personality, rest on the psychiatric conceptions that combine the mental illness and the epilepsy. A multiplicity of factors could explain acts of violence committed by epileptics.

Cases report: Authors reports three observations of epileptics having committed medicolegal acts and hospitalized in a psychiatric service between 1991 and 2003, the average of our patients was 35 years old; two with mental retardation and three a schizophrenics patients, they have been declared irresponsible, two had commit homicide and one commit steal. It was difficult to determine if acts were the consequence of an epileptic fury or the consequence of a delirium. The syphilitic serology was negative. The evolution under neuroleptics and anti- epileptics drugs were marked by a stabilization of all patients. We deplore two deaths by cardiac arrest.

Discussion: The links between violent behaviours and epilepsy involve multiple factors, no characteristic type of crime is related with

epileptic patients. The violence is significantly higher (23%) during postictal psychotic episodes than during acute interictal episodes (5%) and postictal confusion (1%). The interictal violence is associated more with psychopathology and mental retardation than with epileptiform activity or other seizure variables. It is what we reported in our three cases.

Conclusion: A change in the law in our country is necessary to remove epileptic offenders from the legal ambit of insanity, and to save them the threat of detention in a mental hospital as a consequence of their crime.

P0040

Impaired making-decision and empathy disorder in psychopathy

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Background and Aims: The current study investigates the cognitive and emotional abilities of psychopathic individuals. To assess whether psychopathic individuals show decision-making impairment, group differences are mirrored by correlations between cognitive and emotional measures and psychopathy.

Methods: Twenty psychopathic individuals and a comparison group, as defined by DSM-IV criteria for antisocial personality disorder and the Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R), were tested a standardized psychometric measures of alexithymia and cognitive empathy (LEAS), a facial emotion recognition (RME). We also examined these patients with procedure designed to measure decision-making (Iowa Gambling Task) and standardized neuropsychological tests were applied to assess their cognitive intelligence, executive functioning, attention as well. Their results were compared with those of 20 controls subjects.

Results: Compared with controls, psychopathic individuals were characterized by a selective impairment for cognitive flexibility, cognitive empathy and decision-making. These results are interpreted with reference to amygdale dysfunction and to somatic markers hypothesis. Moreover, the psychopathic individuals show defective performance and absence punishment learning on the gambling task, who mimicked the gambling behavior of orbitofrontal patients.

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that emotional and social functioning is critically tied to on-going experience of autonomic arousal state. Furthermore our results extend the link between dysfunction of their orbitofrontal circuit, but also dorsolateral prefrontal circuit, and psychopathy. The implications of these results for models of psychopathy are discussed.

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Screening of personality disorders for gender among Spanish college students by personality diagnostic questionnaire-4+ (PdQ-4+)

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Background and Aims: There are only a few epidemiology studies of personality disorders in the general population related with gender distribution. Due the important relevated actually increase in the clinic and non clinic environment of this type of disorders, the intention of this work is to study the prevalence of the personality disorder