PW01-54 - CORRELATION OF A SET OF GENE VARIANTS, LIFE EVENTS AND PERSONALITY FEATURES ON ADULT ADHD SEVERITY

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Objective: Increasing evidence suggests that symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) could persist into adult life in a substantial proportion of cases. The aim of the present study is to investigate the impact of 1) adverse events, 2) personality traits and 3) genetic variants chosen on the basis of previous findings and 4) their possible interactions on adult ADHD severity in a sample of 110 Caucasian patients.

Methods: One hundred and ten individuals diagnosed with adult ADHD were evaluated for occurrence of adverse events in childhood and adulthood, and personality traits by the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI). Common polymorphisms within a set of nine important candidate genes (*SLC6A3, DBH, DRD4, DRD5, HTR2A, CHRNA7, BDNF, PRKG1* and *TAAR9*) were genotyped for each subject. Life events, personality traits and genetic variations were analyzed in relationship to severity of current symptoms, evaluated by the Brown Attention Deficit Disorder Scale (BADDS).

Results: Genetic variations were not significantly associated with severity of ADHD symptoms and life stressors displayed only a minor effect as compared to personality traits. Indeed, symptoms' severity was significantly correlated with the temperamental trait of Harm avoidance and the character trait of Self directedness.

Conclusions: The results of the present work are in line with previous evidence of a significant correlation between some personality traits and adult ADHD. However, several limitations such as the small sample size and the exclusion of patients with other severe comorbid psychiatric disorders could have influenced the significance of present findings.