

## EPP0007

## Adverse childhood experience referring to parental relationship is associated with the risk of alcohol dependence and with COMT Val158Met polymorphism, but out of gene-environment interactions

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**Introduction:** Gene-environment interactions (GxE) are considered to make a substantial impact on the risk of alcohol dependence (AD).

**Objectives:** The aim of the study: to test the associations between the functional polymorphism Val158Met (rs6265) in the catechol-O-methyl transferase (COMT) gene, affecting dopamine neurotransmission, and adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and their GxE interactions with AD risk.

**Methods:** The study included 149 AD inpatients (mean age 29.9 (SD=3.91), 16.1% females) and 201 healthy volunteers (23.3 (2.48), 30.1% females). The Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ) was used for assessing ACE. COMT Val158Met polymorphism was detected by RT-PCR.

**Results:** First, COMT Val158Met polymorphism was associated only with adverse childhood experience referring to parental relationship (ACE-IQ), but differently in two groups. Healthy minor Met158 carriers have lower scores on the subscale "relationship with parents/guardians" (P) ( $p=0.025$ ) and "physical neglect" (PN) ( $p=0.059$ ) vs. homozygous Val158 carriers. However, AD patients - Met158carriers have a tendency to a higher score on the subscale "one or no parents, parental separation or divorce" (PSD) ( $p=0.078$ ). Then logistic regression revealed associations of these ACE scores with increased AD risk: P ( $p=0.001$ , OR=1.186, 95%CI [1.069-1.315]), PN ( $p=0.024$ , OR=1.254, 95%CI [1.030-1.526]), and PSD ( $p=0.016$ , OR=1.499, 95%CI [1.080-2.082]). No associations of COMT Val158Met alone or in interactions with these ACE-IQ scores with the AD risk were found.

**Conclusions:** Adverse childhood experience referring to parental relationship is associated with alcohol dependence risk and separately with COMT Val158Met, but no clear interactions in frame of GxE has been supported.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** Alcohol dependence; GxE interaction

## EPP0006

## Internet gaming disorder, aggression and psychological distress in young adults

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**Introduction:** Internet gaming has become a topic of interest since it has positive but also negative effects.

**Objectives:** To explore the relationship between internet gaming, aggression and psychological distress in young adults.

**Methods:** 229 Portuguese subjects (55.5% females), with a mean age of 21.13 years old ( $SD = 2.075$ , range: 18-29) filled in the Internet Gaming Disorder Scale-Short Form, the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire, and the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scales-21.

**Results:** The total score of internet gaming was of 15.90 ( $SD=6.32$ ), 79.9% ( $n=183$ ) of the sample used to play videogames and 24.5% ( $n=56$ ) spent more than ten hours playing a week. Internet gaming was correlated with physical aggression ( $r=.23^{**}$ ), anger ( $r=.31^{**}$ ) and hostility ( $r=.35^{**}$ ); and with depression ( $r=.36^{**}$ ), anxiety ( $r=.28^{**}$ ), and stress ( $r=.31^{**}$ ). A Mann Whitney U test revealed significant differences in internet gaming disorder levels of males ( $Md=130.75$ ,  $n=102$ ) and females ( $Md=102.35$ ,  $n=127$ ),  $U=4871.000$   $z=-3.232$ ,  $p=.001$ ,  $r=4.49$ .

**Conclusions:** Internet gaming disorder is associated with aggression and psychological distress, and males presented higher internet gaming disorder levels. Future studies are needed to explore the bidirectional relationships between gaming disorder, aggression and psychological distress.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** internet gaming disorder; aggressiveness; young adults; psychological distress

## EPP0007

## Individual factors associated with workaholism among Tunisian engineers

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**Introduction:** Globalization and increased competition in the engineering profession induce to work longer and harder, which predisposes to workaholism or work addiction. Identifying individual factors associated with workaholism could help to maintain the mental health at work.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of workaholism and its associated socio-demographic and historic factors among Tunisian engineers.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional descriptive and analytical study conducted among Tunisian engineers during July 2021. The data were collected by an online questionnaire including the socio-demographic and historic information and the “the Work Addiction Risk Test” (WART) which was used to assess the workaholism.

**Results:** A total of 52 engineers participated in this study (40.4% female and 59.6% male). The average age was 30.75 years (SD=6.25 years). Concerning marital status, thirty-five engineers (67.3%) were single. Of the participants, 17.3% had a history of chronic somatic-disorders and 25 % of them had a history of a psychiatric disorder, such as depressive disorder in 11.5% of cases. The prevalence of workaholism in Tunisian engineers was 23.1%. Workaholism was associated to older age with no significant difference ( $p = 0.11$ ). The analysis showed that workaholics had more history of depressive disorder ( $p = 0.02$ ) compared to non-workaholics. However, no significant difference was found by the other socio-demographic factors according to workaholism.

**Conclusions:** Workaholism is a significant phenomenon among Tunisian engineers. It may depend of personal characteristics and induce negative consequences on mental health and lead to depression.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** work addiction; individual factors; Prevalence; engineers

## EPP0008

### Childhood violence experience interacts with BDNF Val158Met polymorphism and modify internet addiction risk

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**Introduction:** Internet-addiction (IA) is one of the most common non-chemical (or behavioral) addictions with genetic impact and substantial effects of psychological and personality characteristics, taking into account the childhood traumatic experience. Gene-environment interactions (GxE) may substantially impact on the risk of Internet-addiction (IA).

**Objectives:** Aim: to test the associations between the functional polymorphism rs6265 (Val66Met) in brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) gene, affecting BDNF function, and childhood traumatic experience and their GxE interactions with IA risk.

**Methods:** In total 456 participants were screened with Chinese Internet Addiction Scale (CIAS) to cut a cohort on two groups: IA (CIAS total score  $\geq 65$ ,  $n=100$ ) and controls (CIAS total score less 64,  $n=356$ ). The Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ) was used to assess childhood traumatic experience using its main domains: parents (P), family (F), abuse (A) and violence (V). BDNF Val158Met polymorphism was detected by RT-PCR.

**Results:** Logistic regression revealed associations of P scores with increased IA risk only after adjustment for sex and age ( $p=0.01$ , OR=1.166, 95%CI[1.038-1.309]) and V scores with decreased IA risk ( $p=0.000$ , OR=0.799, 95%CI [0,233;0,744] only before adjustment. No associations of F and A with IA risk were found. BDNF Val158Met per se was not associated with IA risk, but significant effect of interaction V score\*BDNF rs6265 CC on IA risk in “protective” manner was revealed ( $p=0.039$ , OR=0.873, 95%CI [0.768-0.993]) in a model adjusted for sex and age.

**Conclusions:** Childhood violence experience interacts with BDNF Val158Met polymorphism and CC (ValVal) genotype may be possibly protective factor decreasing the internet addiction risk

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**Keywords:** BDNF Val158Met; internet addiction; adverse childhood experiences

## EPP0009

### Gambling During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Introduction:** With the Covid-19 pandemic numerous questions about the behaviour of gambling addicts have risen, with the lockdown causing a lack of structure, peer supervision and support. The first reports have suggested an increase in activity and riskier choices.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to explore how the Covid-19 pandemic has influenced gambling habits.

**Methods:** Data was collected from companies in Germany and Croatia which provide online gambling services, and statistically analyzed.