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EARLY ONSET OF ALCOHOL USE: A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY PROFILE?

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Introduction: Early onset of substances use disorders (SUD) has been related to some personality characteristics and a higher prevalence of social, psychiatric and organic problems.

Objetives: To describe personality differences in early onset of alcohol use (EO, age \leq 15) subjects and late onset of alcohol use (LO, age \geq 16), both affected of acute non-substance use psychiatric disorders (Non-SUD) and alcohol related substance use disorders (alcohol SUD).

Methods: Data on sociodemographic and clinical factors were gathered among subjects meeting DSM-IV criteria of alcohol SUD. Psychometric characteristics were explored with TCI-R.

Results: The whole sample (N=188; age 36,8 \pm 9,2; 71,4% male) showed mainly hallucinations/delusions (37,7%) at admittance and personality disorders (50,3%) as a most prevalent non-SUD. Most common comorbid SUD were alcohol (59,5%).

EO subjects (N=103) had more prevalence of legal problems (51,4% vs. 15,9%), sedatives misuse (73,8% vs. 54,1%), polydrug abuse (2 \pm 1,1 vs. 1,6 \pm 1,0) and higher score in ASI psychopathology (5,8 \pm 1,3 vs. 4,8 \pm 1,8). Most frequent dual diagnosis in EO subjects were psychosis+cannabis SUD (8,7%).

EO group was characterized by higher impulsiveness (102,9 \pm 16,4 vs 97,0 \pm 14,5), disorderliness (127,6 \pm 19,2 vs. 117,4 \pm 21,7), harm avoidance (30,7 \pm 4,9 vs. 28 \pm 7,6), eagerness of effort (34,7 \pm 7,5 vs. 31,6 \pm 8,0), ambitious (19,2 \pm 4,6 vs. 17,9 \pm 3,1), perfectionist (29,8 \pm 5,9 vs. 27,8 \pm 6,2), responsibility (30,5 \pm 6,9 vs. 27,9 \pm 7,7), resourcefulness (25,9 \pm 6,3 vs. 23,2 \pm 6,8), enlightened second nature (17,7 \pm 3,9 vs. 13,9 \pm 4,6), social acceptance (32,0 \pm 5,8 vs. 29,4 \pm 7,1) and lower anticipatory worry (71,7 \pm 18,5 vs. 79,8 \pm 17,9), dependence (54,5 \pm 12,4 vs. 59,2 \pm 14,9).

Conclusions: EO was characterized by higher scores in impulsiveness, disorderliness, and self-directedness and showed more severity on social, psychopathologic and substance problems.