

P01-406

## NORMAL 0 14 GENERAL PUNITIVENESS AND DIRECTION OF HOSTILITY IN CHRONIC PROSTATITIS PATIENTS

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**Introduction:** Chronic prostatitis has been long considered a psychosomatic illness. We have previously studied alexithymic and obsessive-compulsive features in chronic prostatitis patients.

**Aims:** To evaluate introverted, extroverted and total hostility in patients with chronic prostatitis.

**Methods:** Patients diagnosed with chronic prostatitis at a tertiary care ID clinic were evaluated with the Hostility and Direction of Hostility Questionnaire (HDHQ), a questionnaire with 5 subscales designed to assess total hostility or punitiveness and direction of hostility. Patients were categorized according to the NIH Consensus Classification System for Prostatitis Category and the NIH Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index (CPSI) was calculated.

**Results:** 82 patients (median age 37.5 yrs old; IQR 30-45.5 yrs) were evaluated. According to the NIH Prostatitis Classification patients were categorized as type II: 45.1%, IIIa: 9.7 %, IIIb: 39%, IV: 2.4%. Median CPSI score was 19.5 (IQR: 14.5-24.3). Median introverted, extroverted and total hostility scores were 3 (IQR: 2-6), 9 (IQR: 7-13) and 13 (IQR: 9-18) respectively. Results from the Extroverted Hostility HDHQ subscale correlated ( $r^2 = 0.25$ ,  $p=0.024$ ) with subscales of the TAS (Toronto Alexithymia Scale). These results were independent of CPSI scores.

**Conclusions:** Chronic prostatitis patients' total hostility scores are similar to those of the general population reported by other studies. However, chronic prostatitis patients show more outward directed hostility. The relationship between TAS subscale scores and measures of extroverted hostility needs further elucidation. Patients with chronic prostatitis are potentially at risk for psychiatric disturbances and thus may need psychiatric counseling and therapy.