
TYPE D PERSONALITY AND THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL CORRELATES IN A ROMANIAN SAMPLE OF PATIENTS WITH CORONARY HEART DISEASE

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Objectives:

The main purpose of our research was to investigate the presence of type D personality along with other psychopathological aspects in patients with coronary heart disease from our region.

Material and methods:

The study was of a cross-sectional nature involving the 84 subjects admitted in Timisoara Institute of Cardiology for a diagnostic of coronary heart disease. Personality D scale, SCL-90 and Sheehan Disability Scale, were administered in studied subjects. A control sample that consists in 84 healthy subjects was done, being both gender and age matched.

Results:

The presence of type D personality has significantly correlated with the presence of coronary heart disease just in one of two its subdimensions. Hence, the negative affectivity scores were significant higher in subjects with coronary disease comparatively with healthy subjects ($t = 4.081$, $df = 166$, $p < 0.001$). Pertaining to psychopathological dimensions of SCL-90 scale, all of these have been significant correlated with the presence of coronary heart disease ($p < 0.001$). Work, social and familial disabilities have had significant worse impact on subjects with coronary heart disease that scored higher on negative affectivity subscale. ($\rho = 0.607$, $p < 0.001$; $\rho = 0.323$, $p = 0.003$ and $\rho = 0.420$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions:

The negative affectivity was significant correlated with coronary heart disease in patients from our region. Also, negative affectivity was associated with higher disabilities in all assessed domains of existence. Somewhat expectedly, subjects with coronary heart disease have higher levels of different psychopathologies than healthy counterparts.