

SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN GREEK DOCTORS

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Introduction: Many studies have concluded that doctors -irrelevant of their specialties- have higher levels of hostility and psychological problems compared to these observed in the general population.

Objectives: The investigation of psychological characteristics of Greek male and female resident doctors.

Aims: To demonstrate the high hostility rates among physicians.

Materials and methods: 102 Greek resident doctors in the field of Internal Medicine, 45 male and 57 female, participated in the present study. The scientific tools used were: a) the Other As Shamer Scale (OAS), b) the Experience of Shame Scale (ESS), c) the Hostility and Direction of Hostility Questionnaire (HDHQ), d) The Symptom Checklist-90-R (SCL-90-R), e) a questionnaire concerning socio-demographic information.

Results: The 52% of the sample(73,3% of male and 33,5% of female) are single with mean age 33,9 and 34,2 correspondingly. In their comparison using the T-Test it was observed that the male resident doctors showed a statistically higher mean value in the subscales of: behavioral shame ($P=0,045$), criticism of others ($P=0,031$), extrapunitiveness ($P=0,048$). No other significant differences were demonstrated between the two groups.

Conclusion: There were not demonstrated significant differences between male and female doctors. Both male as well as female resident doctors of the sample showed high levels of hostility, a result that is supported by many other international studies. Concerning the socio-demographic results of the study it must be stressed that the medical doctors used in the sample are married at a higher age compared to the general Greek population of their coevals.