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CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PERSONALITY AND THE SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF ALCOHOL USE DISORDER

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Introduction: Temperament and character factors and specific impulse control-related personality traits are connected to the developmental and clinical aspects of alcohol use disorder (AUD).

Objectives/aims: To reveal the underlying personality structure of individual differences in the symptom severity of AUD. Therefore temperament and character, impulsivity and aggression were assessed in relation to alcohol addiction severity.

Methods: Sixty-three patients with AUD were involved. Temperament and Character Inventory-Revised was used to quantify temperament and character dimensions. Impulsivity was assessed by the Barratt Impulsivity Scale-11 (BIS) and aggression by the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ). To determine symptom severity of AUD the Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ), the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), the MacAndrew Alcoholism Scale-Revised (MAC-R) and the number of DSM-IV alcohol dependence symptoms were registered. To analyze the connections between symptom severity indicators and personality factors Pearson and Spearman correlation analysis were applied, $p< 0.05$ were considered significant.

Results: SADQ ($r=0.290$), AUDIT ($r=0.345$), MAC-R ($r=0.504$) and the DSM-IV alcohol dependence symptoms (Spearman rho=0.271) correlated positively with novelty-seeking temperament factor. SADQ ($r=0.262$) and AUDIT ($r=0.293$) scores correlated positively with BIS. Furthermore SADQ ($r=0.382$), AUDIT ($r=0.318$), MAC-R ($r=0.416$) correlated positively with BPAQ.

Conclusions: Novelty-seeking, impulsivity and aggression as indicators of impulse control have different theoretical backgrounds but a common root. This study has revealed that the adverse consequences of lower impulse control can lead to more severe symptoms of AUD. These connections between impulse control and the symptomatology could contribute to a better understanding of the clinical complexity of AUD.