

CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS OF PERSONALITY DISORDERS. A STRUCTURAL-DIMENSIONAL PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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Many recent studies emphasize the clinical usefulness of the dimensional model for a better description and classification of personality disorders along with the prevalent categorical model and for solving the problem of multiple diagnoses in patients with DSM-III-R Axis II disorders. Otto Kernberg using three structural dimensions (identity integration, defensive operations and reality testing), suggests three broad categories of personality organization (neurotic, borderline and psychotic) differentiated by these dimensions and the degree of severity of P.D. therapy.

The purpose of this study is to test the relationships between these dimensions and multiple DSM-III-R Axis II diagnoses and to investigate whether these dimensions differentiate patients with P.D. from patients without P.D.

Method: 30 patients with multiple P.D. and 20 patients without P.D. were interviewed using the Structural Clinical Interview for DSM-III-R Patient Version (SCID-A), and the Structural Clinical Interview for DSM-III-R Personality Disorders (SCID-II). They also completed the Self-Report Instrument for Borderline Personality Organization, by J. Oldman, J. Clarkin, et al.

Results: Of the 30 patients with multiple P.Ds, 10 were male and 20 female. Their age ranged between 22 and 52 years. 11 patients had 2 P.D., 13 had 3, 5 had 4 and 1 had 5 P.Ds. The most prevalent P.D. diagnosis was borderline (n = 25) and histrionic (n = 9), while there was no schizoid P.D. diagnosis.

The overlap of personality disorders was extensive and not confined to any of the three Axis II clusters. Almost all patients with P.D. had a history of an Axis I diagnosis (substance abuse, affective disorders and anxiety disorders being most common).

Patients without P.D. received mostly anxiety disorders, affective disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder diagnoses. These data will be discussed in light of analogous findings in recent literature.

LEUKOARAIOSIS AND DEPRESSION IN THE ELDERLY

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Abnormal findings on Magnet Resonance Imaging (MRI) are relatively common in the brains of the elderly. Several reports have suggested that Patchy deep white matter lesions (PDWML) detected on T2-weighted MRI brain scans are common in geriatric patients suffering from major depression. Our study investigates the relationship between Leukoaraiosis and psychopathology and the possible influence of these PDWML on certain diagnostic and prognostic variables. The following questions are studied: Is there a relationship between PDWML and prognostic variables in the depressive elderly? Is there a relationship between PDWML and cardiovascular risk-factors? 40 patients (aged over 60 years) meeting DSM-IV criteria for major depression are studied. The diagnosis of major depression was established on the basis of a clinical interview and all available information from the medical record. Each subject receives physical, neurological and mental status examinations. The brain MRI scans are coded and analysed independently by two radiologists, both of whom were blind to the clinical diagnosis. Preliminary results show that there is an association between severity of PDWML in MRI and prognosis of major depression ($p < 0.05$). The relationship between biological

variables and outcome could supply us with a new approach towards prognostically relevant features in elderly depressed patients.

EATING DISORDERS AND THEIR COMORBIDITY: CONSEQUENCES ON PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT STRATEGIES

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The purpose of this retrospective study consisted in assessment of eating disorders and coexisting psychiatric symptoms. The investigations concentrated furthermore on the consequences regarding the psychopharmacological intervention. To be eligible, patients were required to meet DSM-IV criteria for psychiatric disorders. The study included 76 inpatients of the psychosomatic department.

The results showed that 50% of the anorexic (n = 40) and 60% of the bulimic patients (n = 36) were suffering from concurrent psychiatric disorders (depression, personality disorders, phobia, addiction, delusion). Their distribution was significantly depending on the eating disorder subtype. As a long term treatment with psychotropic drugs for eating disorders isn't yet well established, we aimed to distinguish various subgroups among eating-disordered patients, in order to achieve a differentiated psychopharmacological treatment.

REGIONAL CEREBRAL PERFUSION BY Tc-99m HMPAO SPECT BEFORE AND AFTER TACRINE IN PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinical efficacy of 12 weeks of Tacrine therapy on regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) in patients with probable Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Imaging by single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) using technetium-99m HMPAO was performed in 9 patients with AD before any treatment and after 12 weeks on tacrine hydrochloride therapy. Inclusion was based on the MiniMental Status (MMS), the AD Assessment Scale (ADAS-cog) and the Nurse's observation scale for geriatric patients (Nosger II).

The scores (m ± sd) were: MMS = 14.7 ± 3.4, Adas-cog: 25.2 ± 7.7, Nosger = 65.3 ± 13.7. In 8 of 9 patients, a characteristic pattern of decreased perfusion in the posterior temporo-parietal regions was observed before treatment. After treatment, a significant correlation was found between the evolution of neuropsychological tests and the evolution of rCBF in 40% of patients.

Thus, in patients with AD, the use of Tc99m-HMPAO proved to be helpful to confirm the diagnosis and to follow the evolution of the disease under treatment by Tacrine.

PSYCHOSOCIAL TYPOLOGY OF CHRONIC POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN VICTIMS OF YUGOSLAV CIVIL WAR

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Our study involved 26 torture victims of Yugoslav Civil War 1994–1995 who have lived in the war zone of Former Yugoslavia; all subjects according to DSM IV were diagnosed as chronic (duration longer than 6 months) posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In order to understand the psychosocial context of chronic PTSD we applied three-