

# Personality differences between primary psychosis and substance-induced psychosis

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## Introduction

Primary (PP) and substance-induced psychosis (SIP) show differences in several issues and sociodemographics, employment data, symptom severity and family abuse. (1). Previous findings have indicated that schizophrenia patients might have a different personality structure from general population on several dimensions of

temperament and character (2). Based on the biopsychosocial model of personality developed by Cloninger, some authors have suggested that Harm Avoidance might be a marker of an underlying genetic vulnerability to schizophrenia (3). There is a lack of evidence about existing differences between PP and SIP.

## Objective

To describe the differences in personality dimensions between PP and SIP in a sample of patients admitted into a dual diagnosis unit.

## Methods

We studied the patients admitted from emergency room into our dual diagnosis unit for co-occurrence of psychotic symptoms and active substance use disorder. Variables collected were sociodemographics, psychiatric diagnosis, main drug of abuse and the four temperament and three character dimensions from the Cloninger's Temperament and Character Inventory Revised (TCI-R). Psychiatric disorders were diagnosed according DSM-IV criteria using the Spanish version

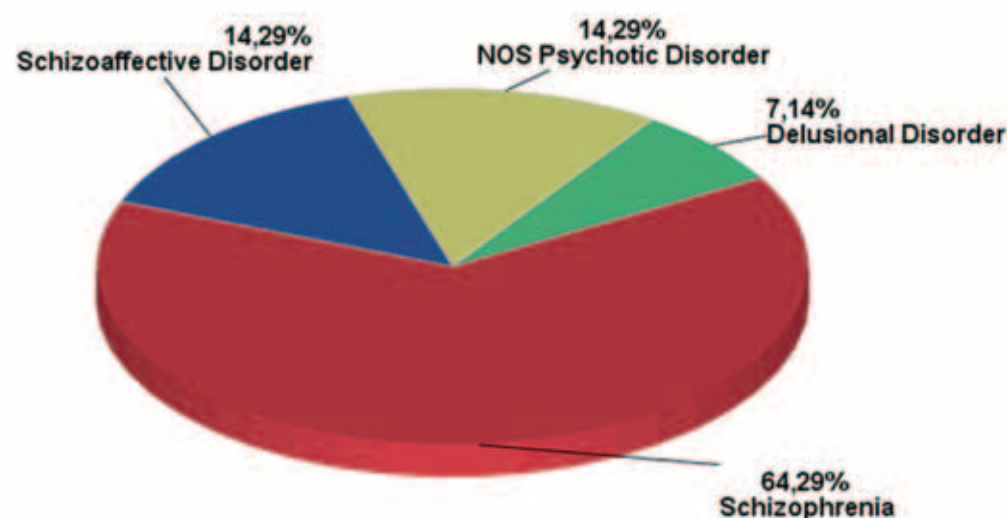
of the Psychiatric Research Interview of Substance and Mental Disorders (PRISM). This interview allows to distinguish in a reliable and valid manner between PP and SIP (4). Comparisons between groups were carried out using T-test for continuous variables. Statistical significance was established at 0.05 level.

## Results

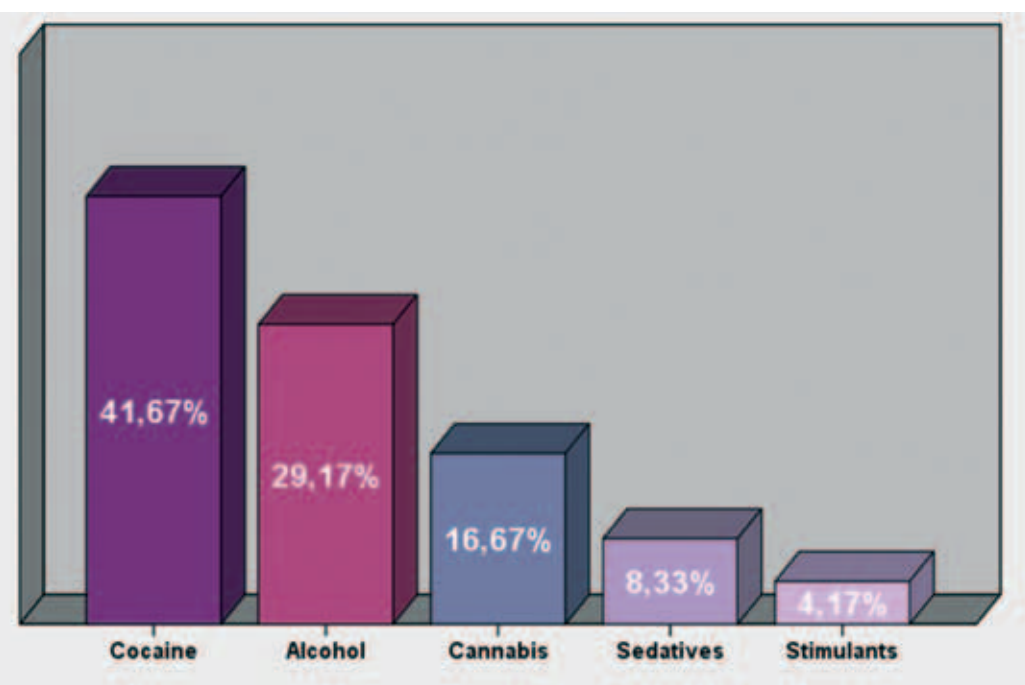
We show preliminary results of 24 patients in their first admission at the dual diagnosis unit with PP or SIP. Most of the patients were male (83,3%) and mean age was 35,2±8,1. According to DSM-IV, 14 cases were diagnosed as PP and 10 as SIP. We identified different psychotic disorders in PP group (see Graph 1).

We found a predominance of alcohol, cocaine and cannabis as main drug in overall sample (see Graph 2). Differences between PP and SIP were only observed in several subscales of Harm Avoidance (fear of uncertainty and shyness), Self-directedness (resourcefulness), and Cooperativeness (pure hearted-consciousness). See Table 1.

Graph 1. Primary psychosis: diagnostic overview



Graph 2. Main drugs (overall sample)



	Primary Psychosis Mean	Primary Psychosis SD	Substance-Induced Psychosis Mean	Substance-Induced Psychosis SD	t	P
<b>Temperament</b>						
Novelty seeking	51,9	7,8	55,0	10,7	0,8	0,42
Exploratory excitability	48,7	10,1	46,2	7,6	-0,7	0,51
Impulsiveness	49,9	8,2	53,6	15,0	0,7	0,50
Extravagance	55,5	9,4	61,6	13,2	1,3	0,20
Disorderliness	51,4	7,3	52,3	9,6	0,3	0,80
Harm avoidance*	64,9	10,8	56,3	10,6	-1,9	<b>0,07</b>
Anticipatory worry	62,0	11,2	57,0	11,9	-1,1	0,30
<b>Fear of uncertainty**</b>	58,9	8,7	49,0	12,2	-2,3	<b>0,03</b>
<b>Shyness**</b>	61,6	6,4	52,7	8,7	-2,9	<b>0,01</b>
Fatigability	61,1	13,3	59,0	7,2	-0,5	0,62
Reward dependency	46,3	10,0	50,5	9,4	1,0	0,31
Sentimentality	51,9	11,4	55,6	9,1	0,8	0,41
<b>Openness to warm communication*</b>	44,1	10,7	51,8	9,2	1,8	<b>0,08</b>
Attachment	46,6	9,7	47,7	13,4	0,2	0,81
Dependence	49,1	9,5	44,5	13,3	-1,0	0,33
Persistence	47,4	12,9	48,2	14,7	0,1	0,88
Eagerness of effort	46,0	11,8	46,7	13,4	0,1	0,89
Work hardened	42,7	14,6	50,2	16,1	1,2	0,25
Ambitious	52,2	9,5	49,8	10,0	-0,6	0,55
Perfectionist	49,1	10,2	47,2	12,6	-0,4	0,69
<b>Character</b>						
Self-directedness	35,3	9,9	40,9	9,1	1,4	0,17
Responsibility	31,7	11,6	41,1	15,2	1,7	0,10
Purposeful	39,8	13,2	49,1	15,7	1,6	0,13
<b>Resourcefulness**</b>	38,9	11,9	47,9	8,0	2,1	<b>0,05</b>
Self-acceptance	47,3	9,2	46,3	7,9	-0,3	0,79
Enlightened second nature	36,5	9,7	35,7	11,2	-0,2	0,85
Cooperativeness	43,3	14,4	46,7	9,0	0,7	0,52
Social acceptance	44,1	11,4	51,4	9,2	1,7	0,11
Empathy	53,6	12,3	49,4	12,2	-0,8	0,41
Helpfulness	42,1	12,8	48,0	12,7	1,1	0,28
<b>Compassion*</b>	41,1	16,4	50,6	6,5	2,0	<b>0,07</b>
<b>Pure-hearted conscience**</b>	48,0	11,0	39,1	9,3	-2,1	<b>0,05</b>
Self-transcendence	57,4	15,7	57,7	13,8	0,0	0,97
Self-forgetful	58,3	12,4	56,5	12,8	-0,3	0,73
Transpersonal identification	51,8	15,6	55,2	11,4	0,6	0,56
Spiritual acceptance	57,7	13,5	56,2	11,6	-0,3	0,78

## Conclusions

- PP group show higher scores in all Harm Avoidance subscales and lower in Resourcefulness subscale.
- More research is needed with a broader sample in order to confirm these results, and determine if these personality characteristics are clearly related to primary psychosis, and specially, to schizophrenia.

## References

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