

# AGE OF ONSET OF DUAL SCHIZOPHRENIA: IS THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH SEVERITY OF ADDICTION?

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## INTRODUCTION

Substance use in persons with schizophrenia is more common than in the general population and is associated with worse clinical and social outcomes. Substance use may also be a risk factor for the onset of the disease and has been observed as the use of cannabis in adolescence increases the risk of developing schizophrenia in adulthood. Some studies have observed that early episode schizophrenia with comorbid substance present an earlier age of onset for the disease.

## OBJECTIVES

Describe the different characteristics between the patients who had the onset of a schizophrenia spectrum disorder to prior or equal to 25 years (EO ≤ 25) compared to those whose age of disease onset was later (EO > 25) in a group patients with comorbid substance use disorders (SUD).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sociodemographic, clinical and administrative data of all patients diagnosed with schizophrenic disorder or schizoaffective disorder admitted to a dual diagnosis during 3-year period were collected. The psychiatric diagnosis was made according to DSM-IV-R criteria.

## RESULTS

The total sample was comprised of 154 subjects (128 with schizophrenic disorder and 26 with schizoaffective disorder). Predominantly male (75.3%) with a mean age of 38.5±8.54 years and duration of admission of 24.6±19.21 days.

In the comparison (Table 1) can be seen as the EO group patients ≤25 (N=98) were younger, male, unmarried and mostly had higher prevalence of secondary education (54% vs. 31.5% p=0, 01). Regarding its organic state had a lower prevalence of HIV and HCV. Clinically a trend toward more frequent suicide attempts as the main reason for psychiatric admission was observed.

With regard to substance use, in the EO group patients ≤25 main drug at the time of admission was alcohol while in the other group was cocaine. These patients had an earlier first contact with hypnotics, amphetamines, cocaine and nicotine as well as the age of problematic consumption of cocaine and nicotine. They also had a lower cumulative deprivation time for both cannabis and nicotine and a higher frequency of alcohol consumption over the past 30 days.

Figure 1 shows a comparison of the main dual reasons for admittance in both groups (psychopathological main reason for admission income plus primary drug use), while various combinations resulting from the SUD is reflected in Figure 2.

By GEP severity scale we observed that patients in the EO group ≤25 had a higher family dystocia (1,43±1,17 vs 0,81±1,07; p=0,002) and worst laboral background (1,11±1,34 vs 0,60±1,19; p=0,024).

Figure 1. Different profile of clinical admittance reasons in both groups

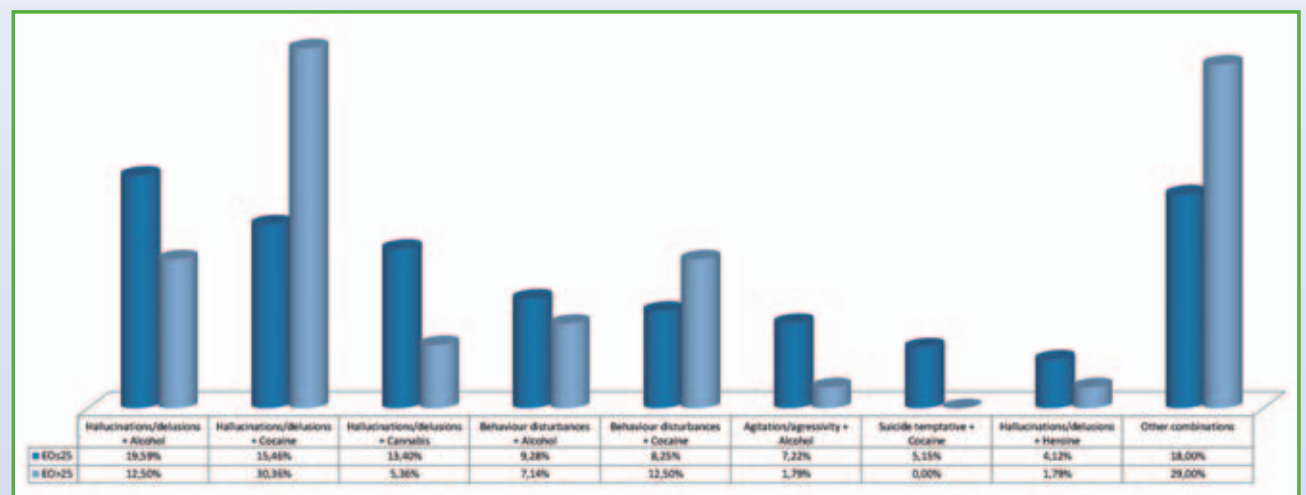


Table 1. Significant differences between both groups on sociodemographic and clinical variables

	EO ≤ 25 N=98	EO > 25 N=56	p
<b>Sociodemographical</b>			
Age (years) [mean, s.d]	36,8+8,8	41,5+7,2	p=0,001
Genre (males)	69,4%	75,7%	p=0,032
Marital status (single)	76,5%	50,9%	p=0,001
Educational level (high school)	54,0%	31,5%	p=0,01
<b>Clinical data</b>			
HIV infection	7,1%	26,8%	p=0,002
HCV infection	17,3%	37,5%	p=0,014
HIV-HCV coinfection	6,1%	26,8%	p=0,001
Age first psychiatric admission unrelated to SUD (years) [mean, s.d]	21,9±6,0	30,6±5,7	p<0,001
Reason for admission			
Hallucinations/delusions	52,6%	57,1%	p=0,063
Suicide temptatives	9,3%	0,0%	
Other	38,1%	42,9%	
Primary drug of abuse			
Cocaine	33,0%	48,2%	p=0,002
Alcohol	45,4%	21,4%	
Heroine	4,1%	3,6%	
Methadone	1,0%	3,6%	
Sedatives	0,0%	10,7%	
Stimulants	2,1%	0,0%	
Cannabis	14,4%	12,5%	
Age first use of sedatives (years) [mean, s.d]	22,38+5,9	25,6+6,7	p=0,022
Age first use of amphetamines (years) [mean, s.d]	17,63+4,1	20,06+4,7	p=0,043
Age onset of nicotine use (years) [mean, s.d]	13,7+3,3	16,6+3,7	p<0,001
Age onset of cocaine use (years) [mean, s.d]	19,4+5,4	25,8+8	p=0,001
Age onset of problem cocaine use (years) [mean, s.d]	22+7,39	28,34+6,35	p=0,037
Age onset of problem drug nicotine (years) (meses) [mean, s.d]	14,96+3,6	16,82+3,7	p=0,007
Período abstinençial acumulado de cànnabis [media, d.s]	27,3+55	60,43+96,44	p<0,001
Abstinencial nicotine accumulated period (months) [mean, s.d]	1,53+6,67	6,29+10,38	p<0,001
Alcohol consumption (days) in the last month [mean s.d]	19+12,94	12,39+12,8	p=0,001

Figure 2. Comparative between main SUD combinations in both groups



## CONCLUSIONS

As we could see in previous papers, presenting a spectrum disorder of schizophrenia before age 25 gives is associated with early consumption amb early substances use disorders as well as worst social adaptation and greater severity of drug addiction.

## REFERENCES

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