

# GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PATIENTS WITH DUAL DISORDERS RECRUITED IN A HOSPITAL DETOXIFICATION UNIT BETWEEN 1981 AND 2017

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## BACKGROUND

Interest in gender differences among patients with dual disorders has been growing during the last two decades. The study of gender influence on its clinical expression would help to develop specific interventions to improve the prognosis of these patients.

## OBJECTIVE

To describe gender differences on sociodemographics and clinical characteristics of dual diagnosis patients admitted to a hospital detoxification unit.

## METHODS

Descriptive analysis were carried out stratified by sex in a sample of patients (n=1290; 71,7% men, 28,3% women) with dual disorders admitted to a hospital detoxification unit between 1981 and 2017.

## RESULTS

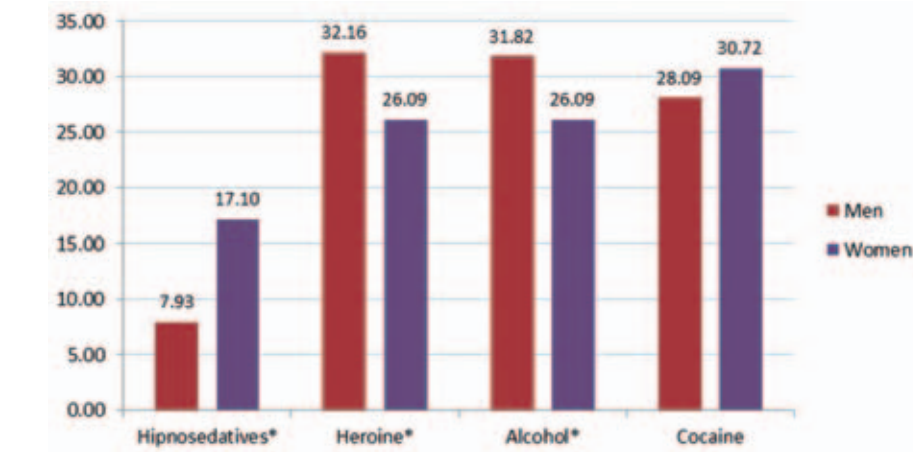
Significant differences in drug use age of onset were found, women being older when they first started to use drugs regularly (26.5 years by 23.4 in men). Moreover, women had been using drugs for a shorter period of time before hospital admission (18.9 years by 20.9 in men). Women reported higher prevalence of sedatives consumption as main drug (17.1% by 7.9% in men), whereas men showed higher prevalence of heroin, cocaine and alcohol use (table 1, graphic 1). Men also showed higher rate of injected drug use than women (22.6% to 16.2%). Women had greater family history rates of psychopathology (43.6% by 36.1% in men) and greater personal history rates of psychopathology than men (86.3% and 73.5%). However, a higher number of women successfully completed the detoxification treatment (72.3%) than men (60.9%) (table 1, graphic 2). Finally, women were more often diagnosed with more than one psychiatric diagnosis (17.8%) in comparison to men (11.5%). No significant gender differences were found regarding social status, educational level or serological status for HIV, HBV, HCV or TBC (table 1).

Table 1. Gender differences in Dual Diagnosis patients

	Dual Diagnosis patients (n=1290)					
	Men (n=923)			Women (n=367)		
	%	IC95-	IC95+	%	IC95-	IC95+
Mean Age at Admission	39.99	39.35	40.63	38.91	37.93	39.89
Mean Age at Onset of Regular Use*	23.41	22.76	24.05	26.54	25.41	27.68
Mean Years of Drug Use*	21.71	20.86	22.56	17.91	16.65	19.16
Educational Level						
No Studies	5.30	3.99	7.01	5.07	3.21	7.91
Primary	32.03	29.00	35.21	28.73	24.25	33.67
Secondary	58.18	54.86	61.43	61.97	56.80	66.89
University	4.49	3.30	6.09	4.23	2.56	6.90
Social Status						
Low	65.78	62.62	68.81	68.87	63.91	73.43
Medium	29.24	26.36	32.29	26.45	22.15	31.24
High	4.98	3.74	6.61	4.68	2.93	7.41
Primary Drug of Use*						
Heroin*	32.16	29.16	35.32	26.09	21.72	30.99
Alcohol*	31.82	28.83	34.98	26.09	21.72	30.99
Hypnosedatives*	7.93	6.32	9.91	17.10	13.48	21.46
Cocaine	28.09	25.21	31.15	30.72	26.07	35.81
Working Satus						
Not working	78.78	75.96	81.35	79.49	74.97	83.38
Working	21.22	18.65	24.04	20.51	16.62	25.03
Injector*	22.61	20.01	25.45	16.25	12.80	20.42
Readmission	32.15	29.19	35.28	31.94	27.32	36.95
Family Psicopathology History*	36.06	32.93	39.32	43.58	38.51	48.78
Personal Psicopathological History*	73.50	70.48	76.31	86.31	82.34	89.51
Completed Detoxification*	60.94	57.73	64.04	72.33	67.5	76.69
Voluntary Hospital Discharge*	25.35	22.54	28.17	18.36	14.37	22.35
HIV Serologic Status						
Negative	75.91	73.01	78.58	73.35	68.56	77.65
Positive	21.45	18.9	24.24	25.27	21.07	30
Unknown	2.64	1.77	3.91	1.37	0.57	3.26
HCV Serologic Status						
Negative	49.01	45.77	52.3	50.55	45.4	55.7
Positive	47.8	44.56	51.1	48.07	42.95	53.2
Unknown	3.19	2.22	4.6	1.38	0.57	3.3

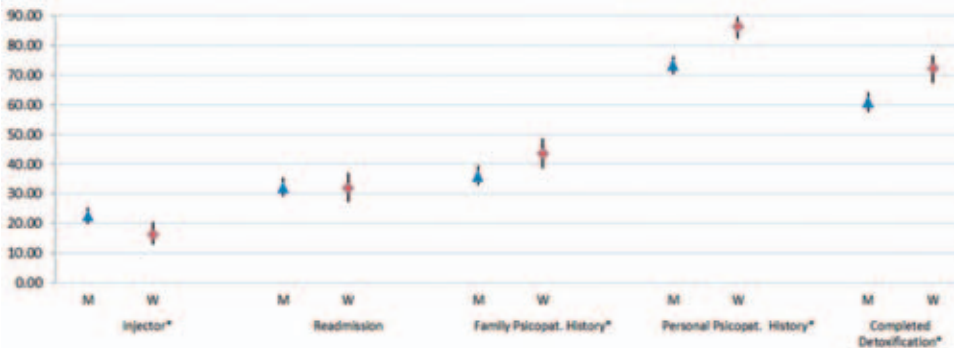
\*p-value <0.05

Graphic 1. Gender differences in primary drugs of use at admission in patients with Dual Diagnosis (%)



\*p-value<0.05

Graphic 2. Gender differences in patients with Dual Diagnosis (%)



\*p-value<0.05

## CONCLUSIONS

Our results are consistent with previous literature supporting gender differences in the presentation of dual disorders. There is a need to identify mechanisms underlying these differences, as well as to develop treatment programs sensitive to gender specific needs.

## REFERENCES

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