Early-onset substance consumption and personality profiles in dually diagnosed patients focussing on alcohol and cocaine consumers

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Background

Early onset of alcohol and marijuana use were largely associated with use of cocaine as well as problematic involvement with alcohol among young adults. Moreover, early onset of substances use disorders (SUD) has been related to some personality characteristics and a higher prevalence of social, psychiatric and organic problems as well as a poor outcome. 2.3

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this study was to describe the characteristics of a sample of dually diagnosed patients who have alcohol SUD (ASD) or cocaine SUD (CSD) as a main drug of consumption and who were admitted in a dual diagnosis unit, focusing on their personality profile and clinical outcome patterns.

Method

Data on demographic, family, and clinical factors were gathered among subjects admitted to our unit. Psychiatric diagnosis was made according to DSM-IV-R criteria. To explore the psychometric characteristics, we used the Temperament and Character Inventory-Revised (TCI-R). Statistical analysis was performed by using SPSS program.

Results

We show results of 131 subjects. Most of the patients were male (62,6%); mean age 37,7 \pm 11,7. We did not find significant differences among both ASD (N=73) and CSD (N=58) groups in sociodemographic characteristics. ASD patients had significant higher prevalence of depressive disorders (14 vs. 4; p=0,043) and CSD group had more bipolar disorders (8 vs. 3; p=0,047) and impulse control disorder (3 vs. 0; p=0,049), as well as a trend of higher parental mental illness background. CSD had also more comorbidity with amphetamines SUD (8,6% vs. 1,4%; p=0,049) and polydrug abuse (58,6% vs. 26%; p<0,001). Interestingly, we found that CSD subjects had earlier-onset of consumption of alcohol (12,2 \pm 4,1 vs. 15,4 \pm 3,8; p=0,027) and nicotine 8,8 \pm 4,8 vs. 15,3 \pm 3,3; p<0,001) and earlier-onset of regular consumption of cocaine (21,1 \pm 6,7 vs. 26,8 \pm 7,7; p=0,036) and nicotine (11,7 \pm 4 vs. 16,6 \pm 3,6; p=0,002).

Finally, according to personality profiles, CSD got higher scores on Disorderliness (60±11,1 vs. 52,5±11,4; p=0,037), which is a component of Novelty seeking temperament dimension, and lower scores on Compassion (37,3±10 vs. 45,6±11; p=0,017) and Pure-hearted conscience (43,8±4,7 vs. 47,4±10,4; p=0,047), which are components of Cooperativeness character dimension.

Table 1. Personality traits according to TCI-R results

		Si		No		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	p
emperament						
lovelty seeking		58,7	9,8	53,5	10,4	0,004
	ploratory excitability	48,3	9,4	46,7	10,8	0,364
	npulsiveness	57,1	13,2	53,9	10,0	0,131
	travagance	63,7	10,6	57,5	12,3	0,003
Di	sorderliness	54,7	11,7	51,9	11,3	0,163
larm avoidance		62,1	11,7	59,9	13,2	0,324
Ar	nticipatory worry	63,8	12,7	60,9	13,0	0,217
Fe	ear of uncertainty	52,0	10,4	49,6	13,1	0,252
Sh	nyness	56,1	11,8	56,2	10,9	0,962
Fa	atigability	62,0	10,9	58,9	11,9	0,129
Reward dependency		49,4	9,9	45,8	9,9	0,041
Se	entimentality	54,9	9,7	51,7	11,4	0,086
	penness to warm communication	49,8	11,5	45,4	9,6	0,018
•	tachment	45,8	10,8	43,6	10,9	0,245
	ependence	47,9	10,1	47,0	10,3	0,613
Persistence		46,1	12,4	48,2	12,2	0,343
Ea	agerness of effort	49,4	9,8	47,7	12,0	0,399
	ork hardened	44,1	12,9	46,3	14,1	0,356
Ar	mbitious	49,8	10,9	50,5	10,4	0,679
	erfectionist	46,2	11,5	48,8	10,5	0,176
haracter						
elf-directedness		44,1	12,9	46,3	14,1	0,356
R	esponsibility	49,8	10,9	50,5	10,4	0,679
	urposeful	46,2	11,5	48,8	10,5	0,176
	esourcefulness	34,9	12,1	35,8	11,4	0,661
	elf-acceptance	34,4	13,6	36,5	12,6	0,354
	nlightened second nature	38,3	16,2	37,0	15,2	0,636
cooperativeness		39,3	12,7	41,0	12,6	0,429
S	ocial acceptance	46,1	8,7	46,2	9,5	0,967
	npathy	34,3	12,3	35,1	9,5 9,5	0,661
	elpfulness	40,2	11,8	42,1	11,1	0,340
	ompassion	45,0	11,1	44,9	11,2	0,975
	ure-hearted conscience	46,1	9,9	47,9	10,2	0,310
	are nearted conscience					
Self-transcendence		41,3	10,7	44,2	9,1	0,096
Se	elf-forgetful	44,1	16,6	44,3	14,5	0,942
Tr	anspersonal identification	39,4	11,1	42,0	10,8	0,189
	piritual acceptance	50,8	9,0	52,0	9,8	0,487

Conclusions

CSD subjects had significant earlier-onset of consumption of alcohol and nicotine and a different personality profile than ASD.



