

assessment in most noncases. We reviewed papers that analyze screening instruments for PDs.

Method: Medline, PsycINFO, and Academic Search Premier were computer-searched for relevant studies. The key words used were screen* and personality disorder*. The references of the obtained journal articles were also examined. Inclusion criterion was providing the necessary information to calculate hit rates and kappas related to gold standards interviews.

Results: 26 studies met inclusion criteria. Considerable variation in predictive ability existed among studies Hit rates ranged from 0.53 to 0.94. Kappas ranged from 0.20 to 0.89. Performed analyses showed differences between questionnaires and interviews.

Discussion: We discuss different options according to the context of application, feasibility, number of items and psychometric properties.

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A case report: Medical helplessness in the treatment of histrionic personality

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Introduction: Frequently it is relatively easy to establish prevalent clinical syndrome in treated patients, yet influence of personality is frequently neglected. Professional approach towards personality pathology might help to avoid misunderstandings and achieve better treatment results. This case presents 35-year-old woman, treated in different psychiatric hospitals 9 times in 5 years. She was diagnosed with several disorders (moderate or severe depressive episode with or without psychotic symptoms; anxious or mixed personality disorder; schizotypal disorder; schizoaffective disorder; harmful use of alcohol etc) and treated by many psychiatrists, psychotherapists using both medication (typical and atypical antipsychotics, tricyclic and other antidepressant drugs, including SSRI, SNRI, NDRI, NARI, SARI, NaSSA, anxiolytics, antimanic drugs) and psychotherapy. Treatment was unsuccessful and provoked helplessness, frustration, rage, hopelessness for the staff. Patient's behavior was demonstrative, manipulative, focused on communication with young male inpatients. She exhibited dramatization, exaggerated expression, continuous seeking for attention (often by inappropriate sexually provocative behavior), overwhelming separation anxiety when abandoned by love objects.

Objective: Description of treatment peculiarities of histrionic personality

Method: Case analysis

Results: During last hospitalization, the patient received a diagnosis of histrionic personality disorder at borderline personality organization level (identity diffusion, sufficient reality testing, primitive defenses). Treatment results were better after discontinuing medication.

Conclusions: This case description:

1. Illustrates the powerful feelings of the staff during treatment of histrionic disorders.
2. Reveals the amount of health care resources demanded for treatment of this type of patients (both material and immaterial) because of frequent hospitalizations, frequent shifting of diagnoses and treatment.

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Psychological personality characteristics of children suffering from stomach pain

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Study object: This study was aimed to depict some psychological features characteristic for children suffering from stomach pain.

Methods: Two projective tests "House – Tree - Person" and "Kinetic Family Drawing" were used. 60 children suffering from stomach pain were tested. The control group consisted of 30 basically healthy children.

Results: Analysis of collected data has shown that unsociability, poverty of emotions, very high level of anxiety are characteristic for children suffering from stomach pain. Ill children show high level of insecurity, hostility and antagonism to the family. Also difficulties in communication, complicated family situation were characteristic for the group of sic children.

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Treatment with ect is associated with an increase of nitric oxide

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Background: Electroconvulsive treatment (ECT) is an effective treatment option for patients with a major depressive disorder. Despite a lot of research efforts the exact mechanism of action of ECT is still not clear.

Nitric oxide (NO) is a gaseous compound, synthesized out of arginine with citrulline as concomitant product. In the endothelium NO production leads to vasodilatation and in the central nervous system it acts as neuromodulating agent. NO is increasingly thought to be related to neuropsychiatric disorders.

Methods: In 20 severely depressed, medication free patients, we measured the ratio of citrulline to arginine (Cit-Arg ratio) in plasma, before and after treatment with ECT. This ratio could be regarded as a reflection of the synthesis of NO.

Results: The Cit-Arg ratio in the depressed patients was not different from healthy controls. After treatment a significant increase of the Cit-Arg ratio was found.

Conclusion: Treatment with ECT was associated with an increase of the synthesis of NO. The exact role of NO in the mechanism of action of ECT deserves further study.

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The future of depressive personality disorder in the diagnostic manuals

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In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV), Depressive Personality Disorder (DPD) was proposed as a formal diagnostic category for consideration in the diagnostic manual. Since its proposal, a body of research has been performed that evaluates the validity of the disorder and its distinctiveness from similar personality and mood disorders. Research has