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TEMPERAMENT AND ATTACHMENT IN PATIENTS WITH ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE

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Objectives: This study aims to evaluate different kinds of temperament and attachment in a sample of alcohol-dependent patients, divided in Cloninger typology 1 and 2, compared to an healthy group.

Materials and procedure: A group of 40 patients was recruited, in a 3 months period, from Alcohology Unit of "Villa Rosa" in Viterbo. This sample was selected by a clinical diagnosis of Alcohol Dependence and compared to a control group of 40 healthy subjects. Each participant was screened by: SCID-I for Axis I Diagnosis, SCID-II for Axis II Diagnosis, TEMPS-A for Temperament, ECR for Attachment Styles.

Results: Statistical analysis showed significative differences between the two groups (p < 0.05). The mean of the scores (t Student) and the Mann-Whitney U test results higher in the experimental group. Regarding the ECR, we found differences in the "avoidance" between Cloninger's typology 1 and 2. Control group: 92.5% of the subjects showed a "secure" attachment, 7.5% a "dismissing" attachment. Experimental group: 40% of the sample showed a "secure" attachment, 35% a "dismissing" attachment, 17.5% a "preoccupied" attachment and 7.5% a "fearful/avoidant" attachment.

Discussion: Our sample showed that the "preoccupied" and the "dismissing" attachment styles were the most prevalent among alcoholists, while the "secure" style was typical of control subjects. Concerning the TEMPS-A we found high prevalence of the hyperthymic and cyclothymic temperaments.