Multiple substance use among alcohol dependents

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Abstract

Introduction and Objectives: Relatively few studies have investigated the role of personality in the different patterns of multiple substance use among alcohol dependents. The authors assessed the association of several clinical, socio-demographic and personality predictors of nicotine and multiple substance use (MSU) in 178 patients receiving treatment for alcohol dependence.

Methods: The sample was divided into three groups: 60 only alcohol dependents, 78 tobacco and alcohol dependents and 40 alcohol dependents with multiple substance use.

Results: Regression and comparative analysis showed that age, educational background, occupational status, years of alcoholism and the personality trait of openness to experience were predictors of MSU in alcohol dependent outpatients. The results also showed significant differences on the NEO-PPI dimension openness to experience.

Conclusions: There are increasingly alcoholic polymorphic subtypes derived from the interactive complexity between genetic/family and psychosocial factors of civilization. Findings have implications for understanding differences between different profiles of alcohol dependents and for novel treatment opportunities in therapeutic setting.

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