

Supplement DS1

Association between psychosocial outcomes and personality disorder

In regard to this association we note the secondary nature of the analysis and the multiple potential inputs there are into psychosocial functioning. Added to this is the difficulty of personality disorders presenting as a heterogeneous group with regard to cognitive and behavioural presentations. Bearing these limitations in mind this secondary analysis allows us some insight into psychosocial outcomes and PD in this group.

Two studies reported on the association between PD and alcohol treatment outcome measured by Addiction Severity Index (ASI) scores. Nordholm and Nielsen (1) found the presence of PD was associated with more impairment in medical, employment, other substance use, family / social and psychiatric health subscales of the ASI at baseline. However although PD patients remained more impaired at follow up across all of those domains, they showed similar amounts of improvement compared to patients without PD patients in each domain except mental health. Similar findings in relation to ASI scores were reported in a study by Verheul et al (2). In this study, although ASPD was associated with more legal, family, social and psychiatric problems at baseline, ASPD patients showed at least as much improvement in those domains as patients without ASPD following treatment.

Similar improvements in psychosocial functioning were reported by Powell et al (3). In this study, patients with ASPD showed significant improvements in global functioning scores on the Global Assessment Scale (4), and psychopathology measured using the Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview (5) at follow up. The magnitude of change in those outcomes was similar for ASPD patients in comparison to other groups of patients with and without comorbidity. This is in contrast to the study of Kranzler et al (6), which reported ASPD was associated with poorer global alcohol-related outcomes. The clinical significance of this

effect was, however, difficult to assess due to the complex composite measure employed in that study.

In a study by Cacciola et al (7), subjects with ASPD showed improvement across all domains of the ASI except medical status in follow up, and differences in the amount of improvement shown by patients with and without ASPD were not noted.

References

1. Nordholm D, Nielsen B. Personality disorders among Danish alcoholics attending outpatient treatment. *European Addiction Research*. 2007; 13(4): 222-9.
2. Verheul R, Van Den Brink W, Koeter MWJ, Hartgers C. Antisocial alcoholic patients show as much improvement at 14-month follow-up as non-antisocial alcoholic patients. *American Journal on Addictions*. 1999; 8(1): 24-33.
3. Powell BJ, Penick EC, Nickel EJ, Liskow BI, Riesenmy KD, Campion SL, et al. Outcomes of co-morbid alcoholic men: A 1-year follow-up. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. 1992; 16(1): 131-8.
4. Endicott J, Spitzer RL, Fleiss JL, Cohen J. The Global Assessment Scale: a procedure for measuring overall severity of psychiatric disturbance. *Archives of general psychiatry*. 1976; 33(6): 766-71.
5. Othmer E, Penick EC, Powell BJ. *Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview (PDI) Manual*. Western Psychological Services, 1981.
6. Kranzler HR, Del Boca FK, Rounsaville BJ. Comorbid psychiatric diagnosis predicts three-year outcomes in alcoholics: a posttreatment natural history study. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. 1996; 57(6): 619-26.
7. Cacciola JS, Alterman AI, McKay JR, Rutherford MJ. Psychiatric comorbidity in patients with substance use disorders: Do not forget Axis II disorders. *Psychiatric Annals*. 2001; 31(5): 321-31.