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SYMPOSIUM SESSION

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of MOH patients may be very useful to provide a road map for the implementation of effective treatment strategies and intervention program in this specific clinical population.

Personality assessment in fibromyalgia syndrome

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Abstract

Background: Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FM) is a Functional Somatic Syndrome that affects especially women. It is characterized by chronic pain, sleep disturbances, fatigue, cognitive changes and mood disorders. Given that the issue of a personality profile specific of FM is still debated, we performed a comparison between the categorical, and the dimensional and structural personality assessment.

Methods: A group of 40 FM patients was compared to 40 patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and 40 Healthy Controls (HC). Personality Disorders (PD) and Personality Organization (PO) were assessed by means of specific interviews, that is the Structured Clinical Interview of Personality Disorder (SCID-5-PD) and the Structured Interview of Personality Organization (STIPO), respectively. This procedure allows us to made a comparison between the categorical (SCID-5-PD), and the dimensional and structural (STIPO) personality assessment.

Results: According to the SCID-5-PD, 32% of FM, 7.5% of AR patients and 5% of HC reported a PD. In the FM group, the Borderline (10%) and the Other Specified (7.5%) Disorders were the most prevalent. According to the STIPO, 42.5% of FM, 25% of AR patients and 7.5% of HC had a borderline PO. Regarding the dimensional profile, FM patients had high impairments in the STIPO Coping-Rigidity, Primitive Defenses and Object Relations dimensions. Finally, the presence of a borderline PO has a statistically significant negative effect on the mental component of the health related quality of life (SF-36), on depressive symptoms, global distress indices and on the somatization dimension of the Self-Report Symptoms Inventory (SCL-90-R).

Conclusions: The dimensional and structural personality assessment allowed to identify a broader range of FM patients with a personality impairment, which could have a negative impact on the psychopathological symptoms. The assessment of PO could therefore be a crucial issue for treatment planning in chronic pain patients.