

## Washington University School of Medicine Digital Commons@Becker

---

Posters

2005: Alcoholism and Comorbidity

---

2005

# Personality disorders as predictors of treatment outcome in a sample of alcohol dependent veterans with comorbid axis I disorders

Elizabeth Ralevski

Bruce Rounsaville

James Poling

Charla Nich

Carolyn Levinson

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/guzeposter2005>

 Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Ralevski, Elizabeth; Rounsaville, Bruce; Poling, James; Nich, Charla; Levinson, Carolyn; and Petrakis, Ismene, "Personality disorders as predictors of treatment outcome in a sample of alcohol dependent veterans with comorbid axis I disorders" (2005). *Posters*. Paper 12 Samuel B. Guze Symposium on Alcoholism.  
<http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/guzeposter2005/12>

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the 2005: Alcoholism and Comorbidity at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact [engeszer@wustl.edu](mailto:engeszer@wustl.edu).

---

**Authors**

Elizabeth Ralevski, Bruce Rounsaville, James Poling, Charla Nich, Carolyn Levinson, and Ismene Petrakis



# **PERSONALITY DISORDERS AS PREDICTORS OF TREATMENT OUTCOME IN A SAMPLE OF ALCOHOL DEPENDENT VETERANS WITH COMORBID AXIS I DISORDERS**

Elizabeth Ralevski PhD, Bruce Rounsaville MD, James Poling PhD,  
Charla Nich, Carolyn Levinson, Ismene Petrakis MD

This study was supported by Veterans Affairs VISN I Mental Illness Research  
Education Clinical Center (MIRECC), VA Merit Review Grant, Stanley Research  
Foundation Grant

# Background

---

**Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) and Borderline personality disorder (BPD) are most frequently diagnosed Axis II disorders among substance abusers**

- Rates vary from 25% to 75%
- Patients with ASPD and BPD have worse treatment outcomes

**Several problems with research in this area**

- Studies comparing patients with ASPD or BPD are sparse
- The mediating role of ASPD and BPD is poorly understood
- What is the frequency of BPD and ASPD in dually diagnosed (substance abuse and Axis I disorders)?

# Hypothesis

---

## **Specific Aim 1: To examine the rates of Axis II disorders in dually diagnosed veterans who participated in a clinical trial**

- What are the rates of ASPD and BPD among dually diagnosed patients?
- What is the distribution of Axis I disorders in patients with ASPD versus BPD?

## **Specific Aim 2: To investigate the effect of personality on treatment variables and outcome**

- Are patients with ASPD or BPD less likely to respond to treatment than patients with no diagnosis of ASPD or BPD?
- Will patients with ASPD or BPD exhibit more significant alcohol and psychiatric pathology - measured by various scales – than patients with no diagnosis of ASPD or BPD?

# SUBJECTS

---

- **225 veterans**
- **Inclusion Criteria**
  - Age 18-60
  - Axis I Psychiatric Disorder
  - Alcohol Dependence and recent drinking (past 30 days)
- **Exclusion Criteria**
  - Current opiate dependence or treatment with opioid medication
  - Significant underlying medical issues
  - Psychiatric instability

# Study Design

---

- 12 week outpatient study
- Patients were assigned to 1 of 4 treatment groups (naltexone, placebo, disulfiram & placebo, and disulfiram & naltrexone)
- Axis I and Axis II disorders were assessed at baseline
- Outcome measures were administered at baseline and weekly

# Measures

---

- **Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I (SCID I)**
- **Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis II (SCID II) ASPD and BPD diagnoses only**
- **Primary Treatment Outcomes**
  - **Alcohol use & craving**
    - Time Line Follow Back (TLFB), Obsessive Compulsive Drinking Scale (OCDS)
- **Secondary Treatment Outcomes**
  - **Psychiatric symptoms**
    - Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)



# Demographic Characteristics

---

	ASPD+BPD (n=42)	ASPD (n=54)	BPD (n=26)	Neither PD* (n=103)
Age (years)	43.5 (8.4)	44.3 (5.9)	49.3 (9.3)	49.1 (8.5)
Gender (male)	40 (95%)	54 (100%)	26 (100%)	99 (96%)
Caucasian	29 (69%)	41 (76%)	19 (73%)	77 (75%)
Not Married	11 (26%)	19 (35%)	7 (27%)	19 (18%)
Employed full-time	18 (43%)	32 (59%)	15 (58%)	52 (50%)
Skilled work	10 (24%)	28 (52%)	5 (19%)	24 (23%)
Education (years)	12.7 (1.6)	12.6 (1.5)	13.1 (2.1)	13.1 (2.1)

\* Personality Disorder (PD)

# Rates of Axis I disorders in patients with and without personality disorders

---

	ASPD+BPD (n=42)	ASPD (n=54)	BPD (n=26)	Neither PD (n=103)
<b>Axis I diagnoses</b>				
Major Depression*	27 (64%)	33 (61%)	16 (62%)	52 (50%)
PTSD	15 (36%)	23 (50%)	13 (50%)	35 (34%)
Cocaine dependence*	9 (21%)	19 (35%)	6 (23%)	8 (8%)
Opioid dependence Lifetime*	12 (29%)	7 (13%)	5 (19%)	7 (7%)

\*Significantly different,  $p < 0.05$

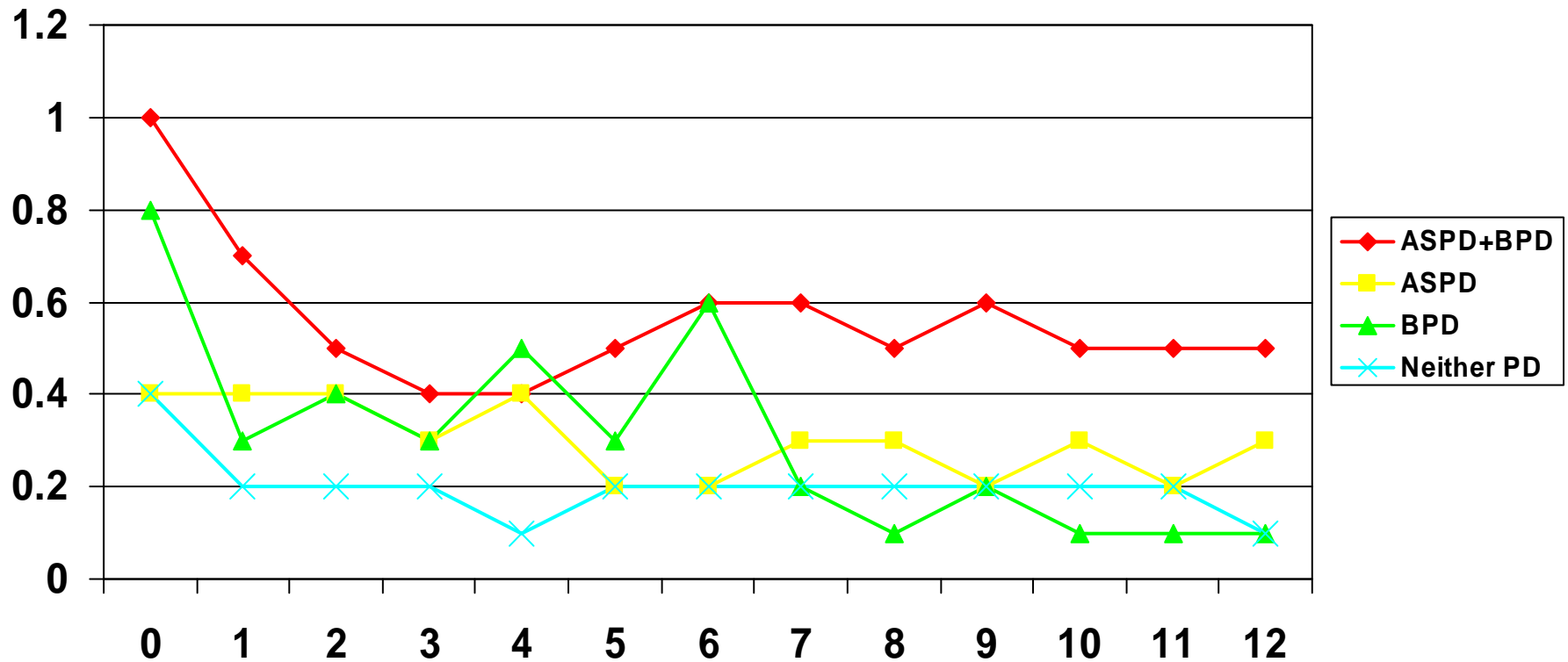
# Alcohol outcome measures for patients with and without personality disorders

---

	ASPD+BPD (n=42)	ASPD (n=54)	BPD (n=26)	Neither PD (n=103)
<b>Measures</b>				
Total heavy drinking days	2.1 (6.1)	3.4 (7.7)	4.0 (10.5)	3.9 (9.8)
Mean drinking days per week	.21 (.57)	.33 (.77)	.56 (1.1)	.41 (.91)
% days with any drinks	3%	5%	8%	5%
Mean # drinks per drinking day	13.4 (10.3)	19.7 (17.7)	19.0 (13.0)	13.8 (13.4)
Consecutive weeks of abstinence	9.9 (3.5)	9.1 (3.9)	6.7 (5.1)*	9.4 (3.7)

\* Significantly different, p=0.002

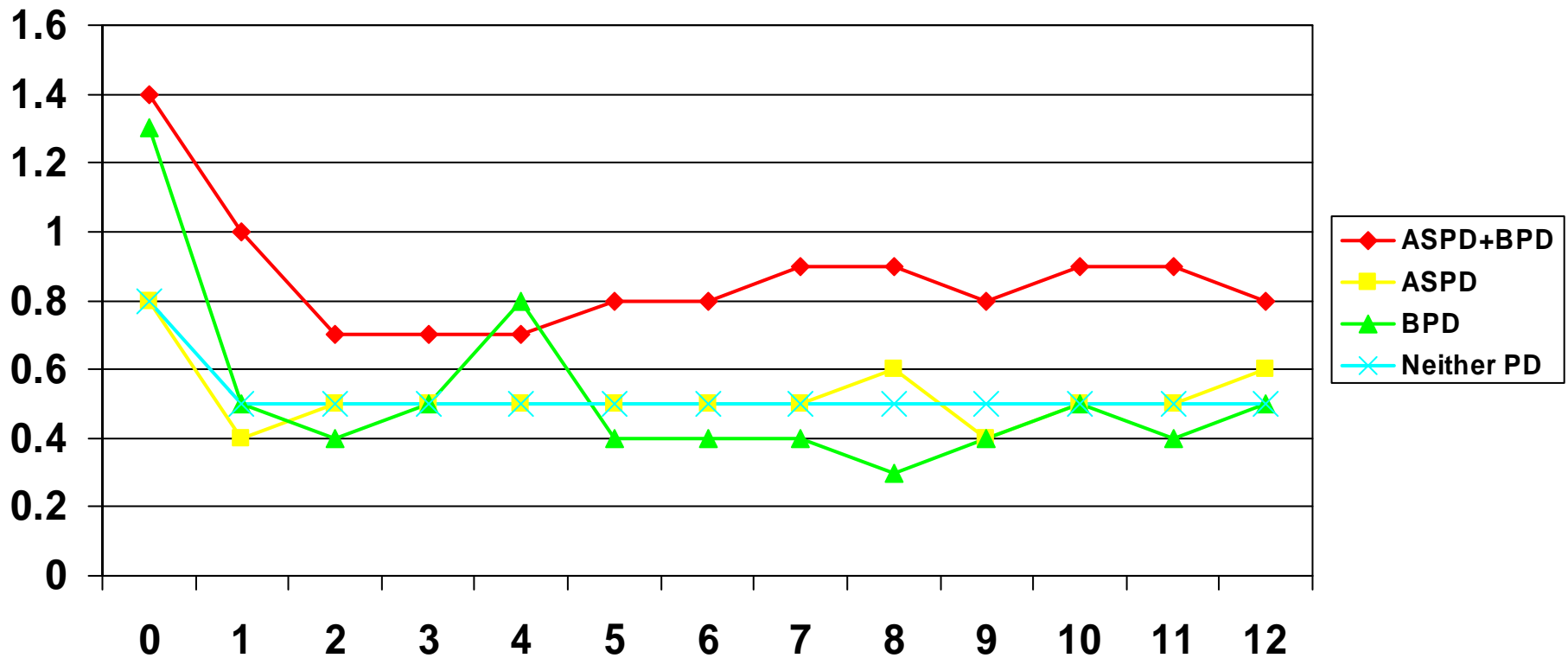
# BSI: Hostility scores for patients with and without personality disorders



Significant time x diagnosis interaction  $p=.0001$

# BSI: Paranoid ideation scores for patients with and without personality disorders

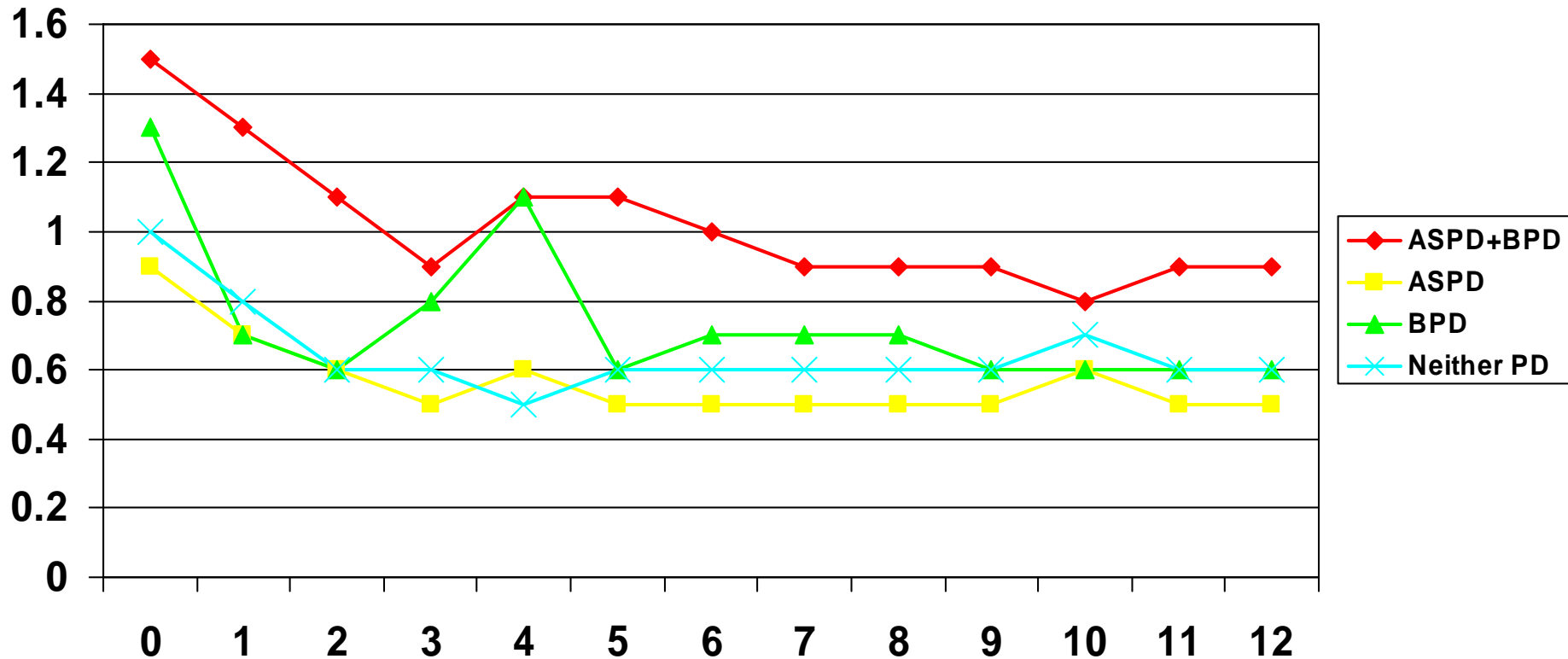
---



Significant time x diagnosis interaction  $p=0.0001$

# Obsessive compulsive scores for patients with and without personality disorders

---



Significant time x diagnosis interaction  $p=0.003$

# Summary

---

- Rates of ASPD are higher than rates of BPD among dually diagnosed patients
- Rates of major depression, lifetime opiate dependence and current cocaine dependence are higher among patients with these Personality Disorder (PD) than patients without
- BPD patients had fewer weeks of abstinence compared to the other groups
- Patients with diagnoses of both ASPD and BPD tend to be more hostile, paranoid and have more obsessive thought than patients with neither PD diagnosis or a single PD diagnosis

# Conclusions

---

- Rates of ASPD and BPD in a dually diagnosed patients are compatible with rates in other studies with alcohol dependent patients
- Patients with ASPD and BPD are at a higher risk for abusing other substances
- Diagnosis of BPD may have implication for alcohol relapse
- Patients with more than one PD exhibit more significant pathology than patients with ASPD alone, BPD alone or neither PD diagnosis



**This study was supported by**

