The biology of personality disorders

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Recently, extensive work has been carried out by many investigators to characterize the neuroanatomy, neuropsychology, and neurogenetics of human personality using the 2 tests developed by Cloninger and Colleagues, the tridimensional personality questionnaire (TPQ) and the more comprehensive temperament and character inventory (TCI) to support a neurobiological basis for the 4 dimensions of temperament (harm avoidance, novelty seeking, reward dependence and persistence). The 7 factor model of personality provide a useful framework for providing a fuller understanding of the psychobiology of multiple dimensions of human personality. It can account for diagnostic clusters and categories in terms of multidimensional profiles that are relatively stable developmentally as well as providing quantitative measures of use in both psychobiological research and clinical practice. As an attempt to utilize some of these principles in the treatment of patients with personality disorders, links and colleagues presented a novel approach to the pharmacological treatment of personality disorders. Much of the pharmacological treatment of these patients remain empirical and can be seen as conducted on a trial and error basis. Links et al discussed current ways to approach and consider pharmacological agents for individuals with personality disorders