

A community controlled study of personality characteristics in patients with depressive disorders

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The issue of personality showed a great amount of debate and may be least agreed upon by psychologists, psychiatrists and researchers. The relation between personality disorder and other mental disorders as major depressive disorder is a complex matter far from being mere association. Eighty-eight patients, recruited from a community setting, with depressive disorders and subsyndromes were interviewed and diagnosed using the SCAN.

Control subjects were chosen from the same community and were not suffering from any current or past history of depression or anxiety, their selection was adjusted to match the gender of the selected patients (those were 117 subjects). The personality assessment schedule (PAS) was selected for the personality assessment of the subjects of this study. The general profile of the group of patients was drawn (in comparison to the control subjects). There was a tendency to have higher average of each single personality trait, and the difference reached statistical significance in many of the 24 traits in PAS. This did not only refer to an increased personality pathology, but also to a higher degree of impairment of daily and interpersonal functioning. Patients with depressive disorders were generally higher than depressive sub-syndromes in all means of personality traits, they also had personality disorders that were significantly higher compared with those with depressive sub-syndromes.