

Impact of personality profile on patients with obsessive compulsive disorder in an Egyptian sample

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This study was done to assess the personality in OCD, both as categorical personality disorders and as dimensional personality traits as well as to explore the impact of personality factors on patients with OCD as regards the severity and expression of obsessive-compulsive symptoms, onset, course, duration as well as the level of functioning and quality of life. This comparative study included 60 male and female patients aged over 18 years, with a primary diagnosis of OCD using DSM-IV-TR criteria, by convenient sampling.

The study showed that obsessive-compulsive personality disorder was the most frequently occurring PD in the OCD sample, however with no specific relation between the two disorders.

The presence of any cluster (B) PD was associated with higher symptoms severity. The presence of any cluster (A) PD suggested the presence of multiple PDs, which in turn had a greater negative impact on many OCD features. Personality disorder comorbidity and the self-directedness character trait were the most important personality variables affecting almost all OCD features in the form of symptoms severity, expression, course, overall duration of the illness, time passed before initiating treatment, compliance and most importantly, the functioning and quality of life of OCD patients. Lower scores of self-esteem and higher (external) locus of control scoring were associated with higher total Y-BOCS severity.