

Impulsiveness as a Predictor of Substance Dependence Related Problems

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The study seeks to test first, the hypothesis that substance dependent patients manifest elevated traits of impulsivity. Secondly, to elucidate the relationship between impulsivity, indices that measures personality dysfunction, and those reflecting severity of addiction.

45 substance dependent male patients and 45 healthy individuals (Matched for age, educational level, and social class) were recruited. Tools: both groups were subjected to the following; Semi Structured Interview, Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID), UPPS-P Impulsive Behaviour Scale. In addition patients were subjected to Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI) and Addiction Severity Index (ASI).

Substance dependent patients manifest elevated traits of impulsivity, particularly lack of Perseverance and lack of Premeditation. Reward Dependence, Sensation, Novelty Seeking and emotionally driven impulsivity predicted substance related problems.