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Abstract

Introduction: Patients with toxic substance abuse syndrome, such as alcohol abuse, have elevated psychopathologic morbidity and mortality such as mood disorders.

Objective: To evaluate the emotional-type psychopathologic symptoms in patients with alcohol-induced hepatic cirrhosis on the liver transplant waiting list.

Materials and methods: Patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis who were candidates for liver transplant (n = 41) completed the SA-45 questionnaire (González y Cuevas; 88), which assesses nine dimensions: somatizations, obsessive-compulsivity, interpersonal sensitivity, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety, paranoid ideation, and psychoticism. A control group consisted of patients with chronic nonalcoholic terminal hepatopathies (n = 22).

Results: Seventy-six percent of patients had some kind of psychopathologic symptom compared to 68% of the patients in the control group with other nonalcoholic etiologies ($P > .05$). The emotional-type clinical symptoms were: (1) somatizations: 37% of patients with alcoholic cirrhosis had this type of clinical symptoms compared to 32% of the control group ($P > .05$); (2) obsessive-compulsivity: 56% versus 46%, respectively ($P > .05$); (3) interpersonal sensitivity: 19% versus 9%, respectively ($P > .05$); (4) depression: 54% versus 27%, respectively ($P = .045$); (5) anxiety: 59% versus 46%, respectively ($P > .05$); (6) hostility: 29% versus 5%, respectively ($P = .021$); (7) phobic anxiety: 10% versus 14%, respectively ($P > .05$); (8) paranoid Ideation: 7% versus 5%, respectively ($P > .05$); (9) psychoticism: 5% versus 4%, respectively ($P > .05$).

Conclusions: The patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis on the liver transplant waiting list had elevated psychopathologic symptoms. Depressive- and hostile-type emotional alterations were most frequent in this type of patients.

Keywords:

Emotional psychopathologic symptoms, end-stage chronic liver cirrhosis, alcohol