

ANGER EXPRESSION AND IMPULSIVITY IN CONVERSION DISORDER

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The aim of the present study was to assess anger expression and impulsivity in conversion disorder patients with and without comorbid depression. Fifty-eight patients had been diagnosed with conversion disorder, according to the criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition (DSM-IV). All patients were evaluated with SCID-I. Fifty-seven age- and sex-matched healthy controls were evaluated with a Structured Clinical Interview (SCID-I/NP). Conversion disorder patients were subdivided into those with (n=26) and without (n = 32) depression. A sociodemographic data form, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale, The State Trait Anger Scale and Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11 were administered. There was found significant differences between conversion disorder patients and controls in trait anger ($p < 0.01$), internalized anger ($p < 0.01$), externalized anger ($p < 0.05$) and anger control ($p < 0.05$). All patients had more attentional impulsivity ($p < 0.01$), impulsive non-planning ($p < 0.01$) in terms of impulsivity, and higher scores on the BIS-11 ($p < 0.01$) than controls. No significant differences were found between conversion disorder patients with and without depression in anger expression except anger control ($p < 0.05$). As a conclusion, conversion disorder patients are similar to depression patients in terms of anger experience and impulsive characteristics, but different with regards to anger control and motor impulsivity.