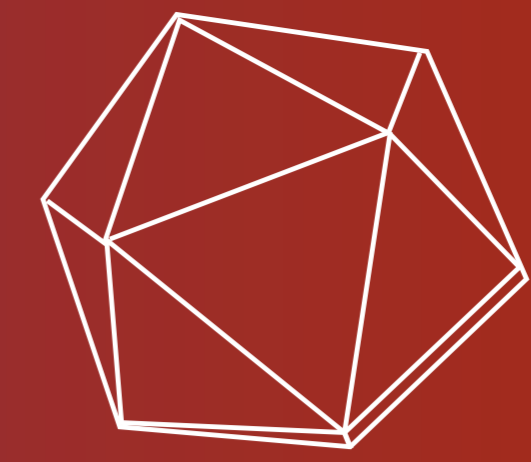


PSYCHOPATHOLOGY PROFILES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

Undergoing Treatment Using Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III

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Introduction

Substance use disorders are complex entities with multiple biological and environmental risk factors that have a wide variety of clinical expressions. Their study requires detailed evaluation around the various dimensions related to substance use and related problems. One of these dimensions is the psychopathological personality traits.

Subjects diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorders (SUD) undergoing treatment tend also to have another psychopathological diagnostic. Therefore, a complete psychological assessment should investigate psychopathological comorbidity and define a treatment plan that considers both diagnoses.

We found three distinct psychopathological profiles on a preliminary study (n=255) conducted in a residential detoxification facility in Algarve – Portugal: 1º - 40,4% of the subjects presents Dual Psychopathology; 2º - 42% of the subjects presents Substance Use Disorder and Anxiety Disorder; 3º - 17,6% of the subjects presents Drug Use Disorder. This study aims to describe the psychopathological profile of a larger sample, 289 substance abusers, evaluated with MCMI- III (Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III), undergoing treatment in the same facilities. We intend to describe psychopathological profiles and evaluate the association between psychopathological profiles with specific substance use behaviors, age and gender differences.

Method

Participants

289 substance users filled the MCMI – III, 226 men and 63 women.

Measures

Psychopathological profile was measured using the MCMI-III (Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory- 3rd Edition). A self-report inventory with 175 item, true or false, that measures: 24 clinical personality scales and clinical syndrome; Three Modifying indices (X. Disclosure, Y. Desirability, Z. Debasement); one validity indice (V). ee Modifying Indices (X. Disclosure, Y. Desirability, Z. Debasement); One Validity Indice (V.).

Data analysis

We use the T-Test to analyse the significant differences between men and women; the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient to investigate the statistical relationship among the variables under study and; the ANOVA to compare the means of the comparison groups.

Results

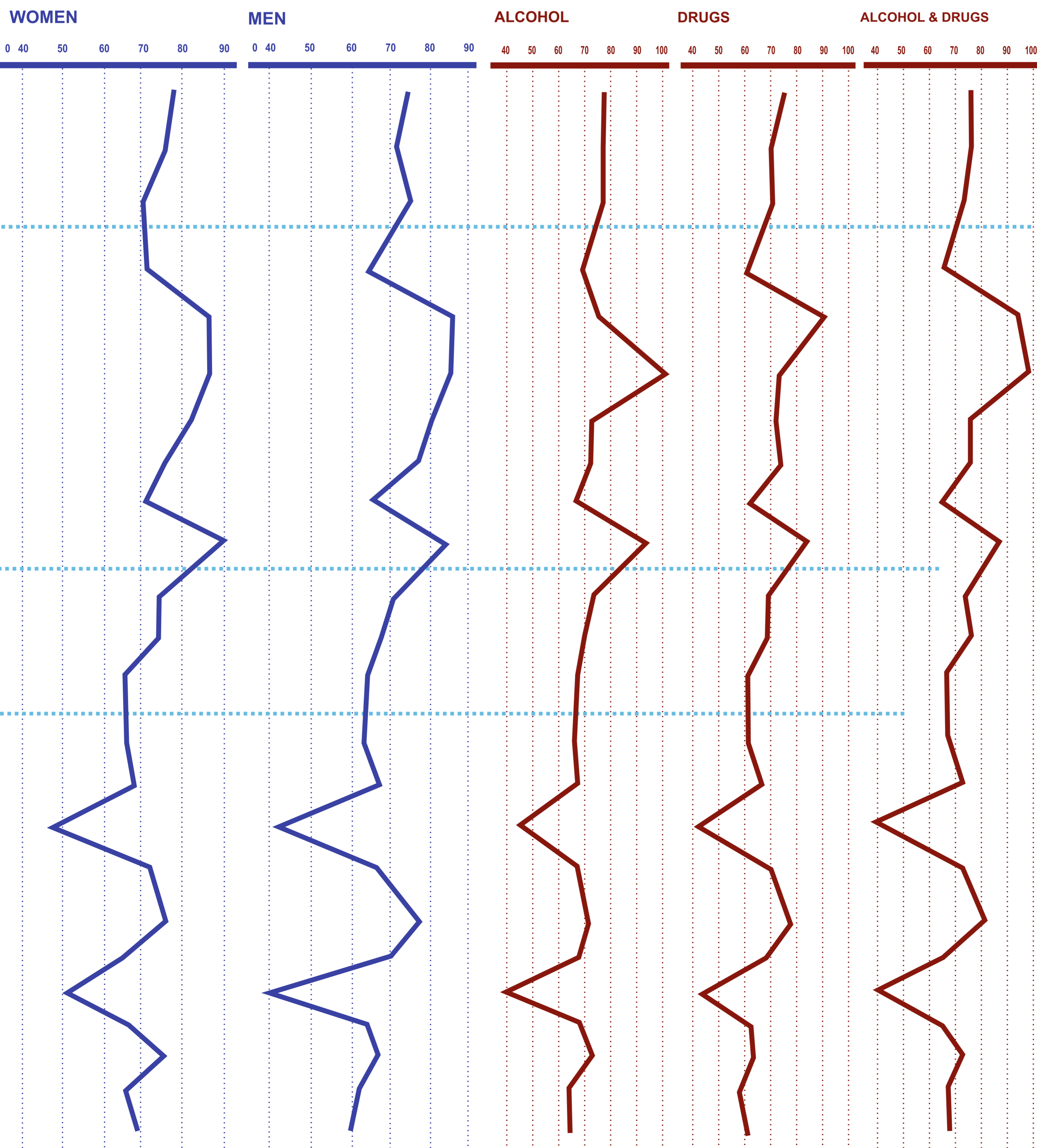
On the Moderate Personality Disorders Scales, we found statistically significant **differences between men and women** on the Schizoid (M=62,27; W=67,83), Histrionic (M=41,32; W=49,51) and Narcissistic (M=69,75; W=62,97) scales. On the Severe Personality Pathology Scales, the significant differences were found in the Borderline Disorder (M=67,89; W=73,79). With respect to Moderate Clinical Syndrome Scales, about the gender, our study indicates that women present a more expressive symptoms in dysthymia (M=69,48; W=82,44) and posttraumatic stress (M=64,21; W=69,62), than men. On the severe syndrome scales, no significant differences were found between the two genders.

Concerning the Correlations, at the level of personality structure, there is a significant and positive association between age and compulsive personality (r=0,161) and there is a significant and negative association between Antisocial (r=-0,211), Aggressive (r=-0,177) and Passive-Aggressive (r=-0,135) scales. On the Severe Personality Pathology Scales, no significant differences were found between the age and the disorder.

On the Moderate Clinical Syndrome Scales, we verified the elevation of Anxiety scale **in substance abusers** (BR=83,19), **alcohol abusers** (BR=91,49), **and alcohol and substance abusers** (BR=90,14). Dysthymia is also above average score in alcohol and substance abusers (BR=75,42). Regarding the Severe Syndrome Scales, elevation is present in the three dimensions – 1 - Thought Disorder (alcohol abusers - BR=77,39); 2 -Major Depression (alcohol abusers – BR=77,24 and alcohol and drug abusers – BR=76,39); 3 – Delusional Disorder (alcohol and drug abusers – BR=76,11), (alcohol abusers – BR=76,66) and (Substance abusers BR=75,45).

On the Moderate Clinical Syndrome Scales, about the age, our study indicates a significant positive relationship between age on the scales Somatoform (r=0,127) and Alcohol Dependence (r=0,212). We found, as well, a significant negative relationship between age and Drug Dependence (r=0,329). Regarding Severe Syndrome Scales, we verified the presence of a significant positive relationship between age and Major Depression (r=0,156) and a significant negative relationship between age and Delusional Disorder (r=-0,120).

Regarding the type of substance used, on the Moderate Personality Disorders Scales, we verified the elevation of Antisocial scale in substance abusers (BR=77,51) and alcohol and substance abusers (BR=79,89). In relation to Severe Personality Pathology Scales, no significant results found.



Discussion

Regarding the results, the majority of substance abusers of this sample, more than 80% present dual diagnosis. Due to the diversity of dimensions with high score, it's possible to have several profiles of dual diagnosis.

Our study agrees with other studies showing that the prevalence of psychopathology in the substance abusers population is higher than in the general population. They have a higher psychopathological incidence, in addition to alcohol dependence and drug dependence, separately and together, in disorders: antisocial, depressive and thought disorder. The most common pathologies are Depression, Anxiety and Dysthymia. On the other hand, with advancing age, psychopathology tends to increase. Finally, the symptoms tend to be more expressive in females than in males.

This research may provide a broader view of the correlation between psychopathology and addictive behaviors, expanding the theoretical dimension and operationalizing the practical dimension of personality disorders, thus seeking a greater understanding of substance abusers which in turn will lead to a more effective delineation of therapeutic plans.

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