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PERSONALITY, PAIN, ADDICTION: A NEW VIEW IN PAIN COPING STRATEGIES IN RELATION TO PERSONALITY TRAITS IN SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

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Introduction and aim: According to recent research about treatment of diseases, pain coping strategies or management of pain can play important role in pain decrease and treatment of disease. But there is a few documented article or reference that imply to pain coping strategies specially in relation to personality in substance abusers. So this pilot study was to assess the relationship between pain coping strategies and personality traits in substance abusers.

Method: 50 addicted were randomly selected and Rosenstein & Keefe's Pain Coping Strategies Questionnaire (PCSQ) and Mc Care & Costa's NEO PI-R inventory were administered on them. PCSQ assesses six pain coping strategies: diverting attention, reinterpretation pain sensation, self -negotiation, ignoring pain, disastrous thought and praying-hoping and NEO assesses five personality traits: Neuroticism, Extroversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Openness to experience.

Results: Finding showed the are positive significant relationship between neuroticism and disastrous thought, negative significant relationship between agreeableness and disastrous thought, negative significant relationship between neuroticism and diverting attention, positive significant relationship between extroversion and conscientiousness and diverting attention.

Discussion: With regard to findings it is recommended that in addition to drug treatment, for changing the attitudes and thinking in addicts, psychiatrists and psychologists apply psychological treatments specially cognitive - behaviour therapy to reduce bad and abnormal thinking level about pain so that the length during of treatment decline and as a results reduce the personality problems that is related with addiction before and in during drug treatment.