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The Prognostic Value of Type D Personality in a Romanian Sample of Patients with Coronary Heart Disease

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Introduction: Lately the contribution of psychological factors to coronary heart disease (CHD), especially those related to personality dimension, has benefited from an increasing recognition by the cardiologists.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the effect of type D personality on clinical, angiographic and echocardiographic parameters on CHD patients.

Material and methods: The current research represents a nonconsecutive 2 year cross-sectional study involving the 161 CHD subjects admitted in Timisoara Institute of Cardiology and 84 controls. DS -14 scale for type D personality was applied to studied subjects. Several clinical, angiographic and echocardiographic data related to cardiac status of CHD patients were recorded.

Results: The CHD patients with type D personality had a significantly higher Volume of Left Atrium ($t = 3.041$; $p = 0.003$), a lower Strain Global Longitudinal ($t = 3.264$; $p = 0.001$), a higher Early Diastolic Transmitral Velocity/Early Mitral Annular Diastolic Velocity ratio ($t = 5.266$; $p < 0.001$), and a lower Peak Systolic Mitral Annular Velocity ($t = 4.390$; $p < 0.001$). Also, these patients had a higher frequency of myocardial infarction ($\chi^2 = 11.508$; $p = 0.001$) and a higher necessity for bypass surgical intervention ($\chi^2 = 5.272$; $p = 0.022$) by comparison with those without type D personality. The Syntax angiographic score of severity had higher mean value in CHD patients with type D personality ($t = 5.143$; $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: The presence of type D personality in CHD patients proved to be a reliable factor that indicated poor prognosis of disease.