

ABSTRACT

Background: With the development of multidisciplinary addictology teams, the ability of an addictologist to reliably assess personality psychopathology can be considered an important prerequisite that significantly enters the process of treatment planning. Because the addictologist is often the first professional to come into contact with the client, verification of the accuracy of clinical judgment seems to be one of the key indicators of addictologist competence.

Aims: Verification of the reliability and validity of the clinical assessment of personality psychopathology in master students of addictology based on the course on scoring the Structured Interview of Personality Organization (STIPO).

Methods: 31 master students of addictology independently evaluated 7 protocols of the STIPO on the basis of recordings. The presented patients were unknown to the students. Data was collected as part of the STIPO scoring course. The resulting scores of students were compared with: 1. the expert scores of a clinical psychologist with many years of experience with the STIPO; 2. the scores of 4 other psychologists without previous experience with the STIPO who attended the course; 3. information on previous clinical experience and previous education of the students. The comparison of scores was performed by the coefficient of intraclass correlation, the social relation model analysis and linear mixed-effect models.

Results: Students demonstrated a high degree of interrater reliability with a significant degree of agreement in patient assessment, as well as a high to satisfactory degree of validity in the STIPO assessments. Increase of validity after individual phases of the course was not proven. Their evaluations were generally independent of previous education, as well as diagnostic and therapeutic experience.

Conclusions: The STIPO seems to be a useful tool to facilitate the communication of personality psychopathology between independent experts within multidisciplinary addictology teams. Training in the STIPO can be a useful addition to the study curriculum.

Keywords: Addictology students; clinical judgment; personality psychopathology; STIPO; dual diagnoses; personality organization