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Title: Psychiatric disorders in COPD patients

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Body: Background: High prevalence of psychiatric disorders in COPD patients, particularly anxiety and depression, is a subject of growing consideration (de Souza C.B. et al., 2003). However, the data published so far relies mostly on psychometric assessment of psychopathology (often self-report questionnaires). Clinical assessment by a mental health specialist is rarely carried out. Aim: To perform a comprehensive clinical examination of COPD patients' mental status, including assessment of affective, anxiety, personality (PD), and other psychiatric disorders by an expert psychiatrist. Materials and methods: 43 COPD therapeutic inpatients (male n=36; mean age 65,6±16,4 yr.) receiving care in Sechenov First MGUMU Clinic were included into the study. All patients were examined by a pulmonologist and clinically interviewed by a psychiatrist. Beck Depression Inventory was used for psychometric control of depression severity. Results: Among the patients of the sample the most prominent were personality disorders (PD): dissocial PD (n=9, 20,9%), histrionic PD (n=7, 16,3%), and avoidant PD (n=2, 4,6%). Anxiety disorders (n=12, 41,8%) and depressive disorders (n=4, 9,3%) (mean BDI score – 11,2) were also diagnosed. In 9 cases anxiety or depressive disorder was registered as comorbid to PD. In 18 patients there were no psychiatric disorders found. Discussion: PD found in COPD patients (mostly dissocial and histrionic PD) may have a negative impact on the COPD course by means of decreasing treatment compliance and intensification of exposure to COPD risk factors (e.g. smoking).