

## Specific Features of the Temperament and Character of Alcohol-Dependent Patients



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**BACKGROUND:** Research into addiction-prone personalities has not proved any conclusive relationship between a specific personality structure and the possible development of addiction. However, differences in the manifestations of basic personality features in individuals with addictions have repeatedly been demonstrated. **AIMS:** This research focuses on the analysis of differences in temperament and character between people dependent on alcohol and a control group using the seven-factor Temperament & Character Inventory-Revised (TCI-R) personality profile. **METHODS AND SAMPLE:** 30 patients currently undergoing alcohol addiction treatment at the Philippe Pinel Psychiatric Hospital in Pezinok provided anamnestic data and completed the TCI-R and the Alcohol Dependence Scale (ADS). The control sample ( $n=375$ ) consisted of members of the general population randomly selected from the

standardising sample of the Slovak version of the TCI-R. **RESULTS:** The alcohol-addicted subjects achieved lower scores (in both statistical and effect-size terms) in the Self-Directedness character dimension and higher scores in the Novelty Seeking, Harm Avoidance, and Self-Transcendence dimensions. The ADS scores showed a positive correlation with Novelty Seeking and Self-Transcendence. The variations were also analysed on the facet level. **CONCLUSIONS:** In line with the previous research, the results indicated a specific increase in the Novelty Seeking personality dimension in the addicts, while other score differences suggested similarity to other psychiatric groups. Further research should focus on the analysis of the TCI-R in relation to the current trend of dimensional diagnosis in general psychopathology and, specifically, in studies of personality disorders.

**KEY WORDS:** ALCOHOL – ADDICTION – PERSONALITY – TEMPERAMENT – CHARACTER – TCI-R

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