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PERSONALITY OF ALCOHOL DEPENDENT PERSONS

Literature review.

A role of personality in alcohol dependent persons is major question in analysis of alcoholism. Studies in this area focus on following issues:

1. So called predisease personality („prealcohol”).
2. Personality traits of dependent persons.
3. Personality disorders related to dependence.
4. Changes in personality in course of alcohol treatment.
5. Relationship between incorrect personality and dependence.

Literature review leads to a main conclusion: predisease personality („prealcohol”) may be one of the major factors determining alcohol dependence. There are substantial differences among various researchers concerning peculiar personality traits of alcoholics. In

spite of this, some common personality traits can be distinguished. Changes in personality related to dependence are considered obvious and inevitable, however a distinction between predisease personality and personality of dependent person is still controversial.

Less attention was paid so far to the personality changes following alcohol treatment. In few studies that exist, a focus is an assessment of direct effects of therapy. Long-term effects are not investigated yet. This seems to be a significant shortcoming of existing studies since long-lasting modification of behaviour and improvement in performing social roles should be one of major aims of alcohol treatment.