
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SEX DIFFERENCES IN ASTHMATICS

M. Henry¹, A. Morera¹, A. Henry², E. Diaz-Mesa³, S. Yelmo-Cruz³, J. Suarez-Jesus³, D. Paico-Rodriguez³, G. Diaz-Marrero³, R. Gracia-Marco¹, I. Gonzalez-Martin⁴

¹Department of Internal Medicine Dermatology and Psychiatry, University of La Laguna, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain ; ²UDMFyC, University Hospital of the Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain ; ³Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital of the Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain ; ⁴Department of Pneumology, University Hospital of the Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

INTRODUCTION. Although asthma has been one of the most investigated topics in psychosomatics, studies and papers on psychopathology in asthma are fairly scarce and of diverse meaning. Furthermore, psychopathology according to sex in asthma is not a common research topic.

AIM. This study aims at analyzing psychopathology sex differences in asthmatics.

METHODS. The psychopathology profile in a sample of 84 adult asthmatics in a hospital outpatient facility, mean age 34.62 (s.d.12.78), 36 male / 48 female, is studied. The Symptom Checklist-90-R (SCL-90-R) Self-Report Questionnaire was administered.

RESULTS. The symptomatic profile is characterized by higher scores in women, with a main elevation in the dimensions of Somatization (1.92), Depression (1.66), Obsession-Compulsion (1.62) and Anxiety (1.44) whereas lower scores are recorded in men, with a profile dominated by Hostility (1.70), Anxiety (1.68), Interpersonal Sensitivity (1.58) and Depression (1.44). These scores mainly contribute to the psychopathology pattern according to sex.

CONCLUSIONS. The possible clinical implications of the observed psychopathology sex differences should be taken into account in the management of these patients.