

1-1-2004


Pre-treatment measures of impulsivity, aggression and sensation seeking are associated with treatment outcome for African-American cocaine-dependent patients.

Ashwin A. Patkar
Thomas Jefferson University

Heather W. Murray
Thomas Jefferson University

Paolo Mannelli
Thomas Jefferson University

Edward Gottheil
Follow this and additional works at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/phbfp>
Thomas Jefferson University

 Part of the [Psychiatry Commons](#)

Stephen P. Weinstein
Thomas Jefferson University

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Recommended Citation

See next page for additional authors

Patkar, Ashwin A.; Murray, Heather W.; Mannelli, Paolo; Gottheil, Edward; Weinstein, Stephen P.; and Vergare, Michael J., "Pre-treatment measures of impulsivity, aggression and sensation seeking are associated with treatment outcome for African-American cocaine-dependent patients." (2004). *Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Faculty Papers*. Paper 44. <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/phbfp/44>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Faculty Papers by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.

Authors

Ashwin A. Patkar, Heather W. Murray, Paolo Mannelli, Edward Gottheil, Stephen P. Weinstein, and Michael J. Vergare

Pre—Treatment Measures of Impulsivity, Aggression and Sensation Seeking Are Associated with Treatment Outcome for African—American Cocaine—Dependent Patients

We investigated whether measures of impulsivity, aggression and sensation seeking differed between cocaine-dependent subjects and controls, and whether these measures were related to treatment—outcome for cocaine patients. Pretreatment assessments of impulsivity (Barratt Impulsivity Scale [BIS]), aggression (Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory [BDHI]) and sensation seeking (Zuckerman Sensation Seeking Scale [SSS]) were obtained for 141 African—American cocaine-dependent patients entering a 12-week, intensive outpatient treatment program and 60 controls. The outcome measures were number of negative urine drug screens, days in treatment, dropout rates and number of treatment sessions. Cocaine patients reported significantly higher scores on the SSS, the BIS and the BDHI than controls. Furthermore, the SSS scores showed a significantly negative correlation with days in treatment and negative urines, and a significant positive correlation with the drop—out rate. The BIS and the BDHI scores were significantly associated with days in treatment and dropout rates respectively. A combination of the three variables contributed significantly toward predicting retention and abstinence. Higher levels of pretreatment impulsivity and aggression and sensation seeking seem to be associated with poor treatment outcome for cocaine dependent patients receiving intensive outpatient treatment. Combining these behavioral measures with other clinical predictors may help in early identification of 'poor responders' who may benefit from additional or alternative treatment approaches.