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Text of ABSTRACT

Introduction. In osteopathic medicine, few studies show that when the placebo treatment is used, sometimes an effect is observed. This effect has a similar effect of an osteopathic treatment . In the medicine practice, the relation between operator-patient is determined by many factors: personal beliefs, prior experiences, worries, expectations, confidences and emotions of both the physician and the patient. The important element of an operator is “to be” operator, in particular the individual characteristics and the personal quality and ability. Among these factors, personality and empathic capacity are very important for the relation and for the treatment efficacy. To assess characteristics of personality and empathy, psychologists use EPQ-R and Jefferson Scale respectively.

The objective of the study is to investigate the influence of personality and empathic capacity on the efficacy of the treatment.

Methods. 22 patients recruited at the ISO clinic were randomized to be assigned at students of Istituto Superiore di Osteopatia. Every patient was treated for 5 sessions. Before the first treatment the operator assigned to patients NRS Scale. Scale EPQ-R for personality evaluation and in particular the extroversion trait assessment and Jefferson Scale for Empathy were assigned to physicians at the beginning of the first treatment.

Analysis of correlation between scales EPQ-R, Jefferson Scale and difference NRS at the time T0-T5 (Delta T0-T5) were carried out.

Results. The results show that correlation between scales (Jefferson Scale and EPQ-R Extroversion) and NRS were very low. In fact the correlation between the difference T0-T5 of NRS and Extroversion score was $r = -.014$ and between Jefferson Scale was $r = .29$. The scores of Jefferson Scale and EPQ-R Extroversion were high.

Conclusion. The results show that empathy and extroversion don't seem to have influence on the pain but the physicians had very high means values of empathy and extroversion. It might be needed a higher number of patients and physicians with major variability.

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