Abstract

The objective of this study was to assess the triple relationship between the chronicity of mood disorders, the co-morbidity with personality alterations and the dysfunctional cognitive attitudes. The prediction is that the higher the chronicity the higher the probability of co-morbidity and the dysfunctional attitudes scores. A sample of 37 outpatients diagnosed with depressive disorders was assigned to two different groups according to the chronicity of their depression. A number of self-report measures were administered: Millons Clinical Inventory-II (MCMI-II) (1999), Spielbergers State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) (1982), Becks Depression Inventory (BDI) (1961), and Weissman and Becks Dysfunctional Attitudes Scale (DAS) (1978). As hypothesized, there were no between-group differences in the Dysfunctional Attitude Scale. There was a high co-morbidity between mood and personality disorders. However, no between-group differences were found in the triple relationship, although the tendency was as expected. The high degree of chronicity of patients sent to specialized Mental Health Services is questioned.

Keywords
Mood disorders, Chronicity, Personality disorders, Cognitive dysfunctional attitudes.