

## Factors Associated with the Development of Alcohol Dependence

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**Introduction:** The present study was aimed to confirm that a family history of alcoholism and early alcohol initiation are the factors associated with the development of alcohol dependence.

**Subjects and methods:** The study was based on authors' anonymous questionnaire. In the index group there were 125 people, aged 22-68, members of AA groups. In the control group there were 231 people, aged 17-65, with no history of alcoholism. The results were considered as significant with a  $p$  value  $< 0.05$ . Statistical analysis was performed with Statistica 6.0 software.

**Results:** Alcohol initiation before the age of 15 and before the age of 12 were more common in the index group (49% vs. 42% and 13% vs. 8%;  $p < 0.05$ , respectively). Impact of social environment was greater for the index group - 11% (3% of the control group;  $p < 0.05$ ) drank alcohol for the first time at school while in the control group, alcohol was more often introduced at home (24% vs 22%). Respondents of the index group were less often raised by both parents (78% vs 87%;  $p < 0.05$ ) and more often one or both parents abused alcohol (43% vs 19% and 15% vs 1% respectively;  $p < 0.05$ ). Alcohol dependent respondents were more frequently punished for their failures, abused physically/verbally and could not depend on their parents.

**Conclusions:** Based on the results of present study, we confirmed that the factors that have an impact on development of alcohol dependence are early drinking onset and family structure.