

Sensation Seeking Scale (SSS) the Brief Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) and the MacAndrew Alcoholism Scale. In addition, subjects were asked to define low, medium, and high doses of ethanol. Low, medium, and high dosages were defined differently by males and females using a chi-square analysis. The activating and disinhibiting subscale scores of the BEA were significantly correlated with each other, and both were correlated with the disinhibiting and thrill-seeking subscales of the SSS. It may be difficult to differentiate between the activating and disinhibitory effects of ethanol, and in fact these reported effects may represent different manifestations of the same effect of the drug.

WAIS-R DIFFERENTIATION OF ALCOHOLIC COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT SYNDROME FROM ALCOHOL-INDUCED DEMENTIA. William A. Canter* and Christine A. Sannerud.† *Ft. Howard VA Medical Center, Ft. Howard, MD, and †National Institute on Drug Abuse Addiction Research Center, Baltimore, MD.

Typical Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised (WAIS-R) patterns among chronic alcoholics suggest higher Verbal than Performance I.Q., suggestive of right hemispheric (i.e., visual-spatial) impairment. However, few if any prior studies have attempted to differentiate typical, well-delineated alcoholic cognitive impairment syndrome from alcohol-induced dementia using WAIS-R indices. This study employed 72 middle-aged and older male chronic alcoholics to assess the utility of WAIS-R subscale patterns in this differential diagnostic issue. Results strongly suggest that dementing alcoholics exhibit salient loss of abstract verbal reasoning (i.e., poor Similarities score) in addition to visual-spatial (i.e., Block Design) deficit, whereas nondementing chronic alcoholics exhibit only the previously identified visual-spatial impairment syndrome while maintaining capacity for abstract verbal reasoning.

ALCOHOL EFFECTS REPORTED BY IMPULSIVE AND NONIMPULSIVE INDIVIDUALS. Carolyn L. Morse and Vincent J. Adesso. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

Impulsive and nonimpulsive young, male, heavy drinkers received alcohol or a placebo beverage, and their performance on four tasks was measured. This report analyzes their responses to the postexperimental questionnaire which assessed the subjective effect of the beverage. Impulsive subjects receiving alcohol responded that they were more definitely intoxicated and that their task performance was more affected than the other subjects. Overall the subjects responded that alcohol had the effect of elevating their mood, but those with more serious alcohol symptoms perceived the effect to be more negative.

ALCOHOL EFFECTS ON SELECTIVE ATTENTION FOR THREAT IN ANXIETY-SENSITIVE FEMALES. Sherry H. Stewart, Marie Achille, Isabelle Dubois-Nguyen and Robert O. Pihl. McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

A growing literature suggests a significant relationship between anxiety sensitivity (fear of anxiety symptoms) and the

abuse of alcohol. It was hypothesized that selective processing of threat cues and increased sensitivity to alcohol-induced elimination of this attentional bias may explain the increased levels of alcohol use seen in anxiety-sensitive individuals. Subjects were university women scoring "low" and "high" in anxiety sensitivity, as measured by the Reiss-Epstein-Gursky Anxiety Sensitivity Index. Subjects were instructed to respond as quickly as possible to the location of target words presented either above or below a central fixation point on a slide screen, both before and after consuming a 1.00 ml/kg dose of alcohol. Words were either physically or socially threatening or nonthreatening in content. High anxiety-sensitive subjects responded significantly more slowly to the location of threatening words than nonthreatening words when sober. No such interference effects were seen in the low anxiety-sensitive controls. Physically threatening words were somewhat more effective in slowing down the responses of the high anxiety sensitive subjects than were the socially threatening words. Alcohol consumption was found to eliminate the selective attention bias for threat in the high anxiety-sensitive subjects. The results of this study suggest that nonclinical subjects high in anxiety sensitivity show a selective attentional bias for threat, particularly when processing physically threatening information—a bias which is "normalized" through drinking.

LACTATE-INDUCED PANIC ATTACKS IN ALCOHOLICS WITH PANIC DISORDER. Teresa Lindquist, David T. George and Markku Linnoila. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Bethesda, MD.

A sodium lactate challenge paradigm was used to explore differences between subjects with alcoholism and panic disorder and subjects with pure panic disorder. Frequency of panic attacks during the infusion, and baseline and postinfusion biochemical, physiological, and behavioral responses were compared between the groups. Subjects with pure panic disorder had increased baseline pH and postinfusion anxiety, and experienced more panic attacks; post hoc tests indicated that alcoholics who developed panic disorder after developing alcoholism had a decreased frequency of panic attacks. These results suggest that different etiological antecedents to panic attacks may result in clinically similar syndromes.

ALCOHOL, FRONTAL LOBE FUNCTIONING, AND AGGRESSION. Mark A. Lau, Robert O. Pihl and Jordan B. Peterson. McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Alcohol intoxication is linked to violence and impaired performance of frontal lobe tests. Frontal lobe dysfunction is indirectly linked to increased aggression. To test this experimentally, 48 males, aged 18-40, with high ($N = 24$) or low ($N = 24$) frontal lobe function, competed, intoxicated or sober, in a two-provocation condition Taylor-Buss aggression task. The low frontal lobe function group delivered higher shock levels to their fictitious partners. Furthermore, intoxicated individuals were more aggressive. Heightened provocation also increased shock intensity. Finally, provocation and frontal lobe function interacted to affect aggression; the low function group responded to increased provocation with a greater increase in aggression.