Demographic and phenomenological characteristics of 60 Greek patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder

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We examined the demographic and phenomenological characteristics of 60 obsessive compulsive patients who attended the Behavior Treatment Unit of the Center of Mental Health of Athens, from 1988 to 2001 and compared our findings with those of the literature. Earlier onset of the disorder in males was confirmed (25% had onset before 14 years of age), who mostly exhibited checking rituals and obsessive doubts, compared to later onset in females who exhibited cleaning rituals and obsessive fear related to dirt. Males were more likely to be single / alone and employed. Our findings lend further evidence to recent grouping attempts of these characteristics in examining their prognostic therapeutic value.

Key words: obsessive-compulsive disorder, demographic characteristics, phenomenological characteristics.