Abstract

The Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI-2) (Cheung, Leung, Song and Zhang, 2001) consists of personality and clinical scales to measure the indigenous personality variables in the Chinese population. The personality profiles of 91 male pathological gamblers were examined. Elevations in Pathological Dependence (PAT) and Depression (DEP) were noted in the clinical scale. Logistic regression analysis confirmed that CPAI-2 clinical scales were useful in differentiating between male pathological gamblers and normative samples. Cluster analysis yielded 3 personality profiles with different personality characteristics and various degrees of impairment based on CPAI-2 clinical scales. From the cluster analysis, 36.3% of the male pathological gamblers showed elevations in most of the clinical scales that indicated the presence of emotional and behavioral problems and warranted clinical attention. Descriptive analysis performed in the clusters suggested that the heterogeneity in personality profiles was related to the severity of gambling behavior as measured by South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS). Group comparison of gamblers by abstinence of gambling behavior suggested differences in Anxiety (ANX). Differences were also noted in Antisocial Behavior (ANT) and Pathological Dependence (PAT) when the analyses controlled for the effect of gambling severity (as measured by SOGS). The results supported the utility of CPAI-2 in assessing pathological gamblers, with the clinical implications and limitations discussed.