

# **Alcoholism and Typology: Findings in an Irish Private Hospital Population**

Conor K. Farren, Timothy G. Dinan

## **Abstract:**

**Objective:** To assess the validity of alcoholic typology in an Irish private hospital population. **Method:** We interviewed a randomly selected group of inpatient and outpatient alcoholics (N = 48, 42 male) in a private hospital in Ireland. Subjects had a structured psychiatric interview, including completion of a severity of alcohol dependence questionnaire, a Hamilton depression rating scale and a typology questionnaire. **Results:** We found that there were differences between groups of alcoholics when divided according to Cloninger's typology hypothesis and by Von Knorring's age of onset criteria. The Type 2 early age of onset alcoholics (n = 23) had a significantly higher percentage of positive family histories of alcoholism, ( $p < .01$ ), a higher percentage of sociopathic traits ( $p < .01$ ) and increased severity of alcoholism ( $p < .05$ ), relative to the Type 1 late age of onset alcoholics (n = 25). The Type 2 alcoholics also had increased daily consumption of alcohol in the month prior to admission, poor behavioral tolerance to the effects of alcohol and more fights than the Type 1 alcoholics. **Conclusions:** We concluded that there is validity to alcohol typology theory in relation to this Irish private hospital population and that age of onset is a useful defining criterion. (*J. Stud. Alcohol* 57: 249-252, 1996)