

## DECODING OF LSD-INDUCED PERCEPTUAL CHANGES IN VISUAL AND AUDITORY MODALITIES

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**Background:** The dying process include many subjective experiences called end-of-life experiences or paranormal phenomena (PP). They are increasing interest among scientific community for their meaning and impact on patient's quality of death, family and health care professionals. Portugal does not have any published studies around paranormal phenomena.

**Aims:** To identify the PP in palliative care setting experienced by end-of-life patients, families and health care professionals in Portugal. To evaluate the impact of PP on spirituality and on clinical practice. To explore further training in spiritual assistance for health care professionals.

**Method:** It was conducted a retrospective study in the adult palliative care setting in Portugal. The data was collected through online meetings and followed with a google forms link to be replied individually. Paranormal Phenomena in Palliative Care Health Professionals Survey (ParaPall Survey) is a self-report survey created by the researchers. The authors did not find any scale or survey that measures at the same time PP and their impact on emotions and clinical practice among palliative care teams. For that matter the participants also replied to PANAS and Intrinsic Spiritual Scale.

**Preliminary results:** Out of 140 responses, 78 (55,7%) of the participants were nurses and 35 (25%) were doctors, 97 (69,3%) had more than 10 years of professional experience. Of the first-person testimonies, 117 (83,6%) of the participants witnessed to patients who died shortly after a visit from a significant other they were waiting; 69 (49,3%) witnessed unconscious or dementia patients who suddenly became lucid enough to communicate coherently, as well as to say goodbye; 58 (41,4%) witnessed that after some interventions (prayer, rites, images of saints) the patient showed temporary but significant improvements; 10 (7,1%) witnessed appearances of figures, spirits, saints. Ninety-one of the participants (65%) stated that PP are spiritual phenomena, 67 (47,9%) stated that PP are a source of comfort for patients and 74 (52,8%) stated that the occurrence of these phenomena makes them believe in the existence of a higher being or power. Many participants stated that the medical community stigmatizes the reporting of PP (n=93, 66,5%). Almost all considered professional training within the scope of PP to be important (n=128, 91,4%).

**Conclusions:** This study corroborates that PP are common at the end of life, although still stigmatized.

**Keywords:** Paranormal phenomena, Deathbed experiences, Palliative care health professionals, Spirituality

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