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Emotional information-processing in borderline personality disorder: An EEG-study

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Background: Emotional dysregulation is one of the key symptoms in borderline personality disorder often seen in clinical practice. BPD patients report higher affective lability and higher affect-intensity than do patients with other personality disorders. BPD represents a serious health problem, in particular among women. With a lifetime suicide mortality rate of almost 10% (50 times higher than in the general population), BPD afflicts 1% to 2% of the general population and between 10 and 20 % of psychiatric patients. However, compared to other psychiatric diseases, such as depression or schizophrenia, relatively few studies addressed the underlying neuropathophysiologic basis of BPD. It is hypothesised that borderline patients are hyper-responsive to emotional stimuli compared to healthy control subjects. To our knowledge, no EEG-study has examined the role of emotional information processing in BPD.

Methods: Thirty BPS-patients are compared to thirty normal control subjects in their electrophysiological response to emotional information. Participants were shown pictures with neutral, positive, and negative valence.

Results: Borderline patients had larger LPP responses as a reaction to pictures with an unpleasant valence as compared to the controls.

Conclusions: Borderline patients show more emotional reactivity to stimuli with unpleasant valence compared to a control group as measured by EEG. Further research could be helpful to examine whether the neurophysiological abnormalities in BPD patients can be influenced by applying cognitive techniques.

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Self-inflicted injury and outcome of treatment with borderline personality disorder patients

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Objectives: The purpose of this study was to show any possible differences in relation to the degree of improvement between two groups of patients with borderline personality disorder. The patients of the first group exhibited self-inflicted injury in the past while the second one didn't.

Methods: 50 patients took part in the study. 13 of them reported self-inflicted injury (group A) while the rest 37 didn't (group B).

All the patients followed a psychotherapeutic program based on a Kernberg model for borderline personality disorders. 10 of them received medication in addition to psychotherapy.

Several variables were examined: sex, age, medication and outcome of treatment.

Results: From the results we noted that:

76% of the patients of group A showed a great or sufficient improvement while from group B, 78,4%.

Also, the patients of the group A who received psychotherapy and some medication and showed great or sufficient improvement were 23%, while those without any medication 53,8%.

In the group B those who received psychotherapy and medicine and showed great or sufficient improvement were 66,7%, while the others without medication 80,6%.

Conclusions: From the results, it seems that the outcome of the treatment, overall, regardless of which of the two therapies for both groups, didn't show any significant difference.

The noted differences between those patients who received only psychotherapy and those who received psychotherapy and medication could be attributed to the fact that the condition of the patients in the first group was more severe than the others.

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The effect of paramedical students attitude toward their jobs on their self-concept at the Fatemeh nursing and midwifery college. Shiraz-Iran

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Objective: The aim of this study was to determine the The effect of paramedical students' attitude toward their jobs on self-concept among first and fourth year paramedical students at the Fatemeh nursing & Midwifery college of the Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. Iran

Methods: 204 paramedical students at the first and fourth years of education at the Fatemeh Nursing and Midwifery College were invited to participate in this cross-sectional study. The data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire to solicit information regarding to demographic data, paramedical students' attitude toward their jobs and Cooper-Smith self-concept scale were used for self-concept data collection.

Results: The greatest proportion of students (66.5%) was between the ages of 20-24 years. The results revealed that the majority of the students (65%) have high level of self-concept. Job satisfaction in 51.2% of students was excellent. Emergency technician students and operation room technician had high levels of self-concept than to Nursing and midwifery students. There was also a statistical correlation between self-concept and paramedical students' interest toward their job ($P < 0.005$). Self-concept score in last year paramedical students was significantly more than first year students.

Conclusion: This study has explored the potential impact of the paramedical students' interest toward their job on self-concept. Nursing and midwifery students' self-concept might be increased by expansion of intrinsic job characteristics, improving their job satisfaction and providing frequent positive feedback.

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Collaborating for change: Decreasing BPD environmental stressors. Teaching families to be adjuncts to treatment by applying DBT and mentalizing techniques

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Changing therapeutic perception of BPD families. Families of people with BPD can become effective agents of change as they spend a great deal of time with the person with BPD, truly love them, provide emotional and financial support, and are incredibly motivated to help. Family members are often dealing with apparently irrational or dangerous BPD behaviors without sufficient knowledge of appropriate means to prevent or avoid triggering dysregulations that can lead to crisis situations. Most people with BPD are not receiving treatment in the mental health system. They quit treatment about 70% of the time. By default, families are on the front lines. We need to treat the family environment in the absence of the patient. Research by