

The antidepressive therapy proves its efficiency in the pain syndrome due to the analgesic properties which are not related to the timoanaleptic effect.

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Women and depression

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Objectives: This study presents the psychometric characteristics of the Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (C.E.S.-D) in a sample of Portuguese young women analysing the severity.

Methods: The sample was randomly selected using stratification by age. 177 young women with mean age of 20 participated in the study. The outcome variables included the C.E.S.-D and specific sub-scales. Internal consistency and factor analysis were conducted, as well as correlations.

Results: Cronbach's alpha and factor analysis show a very similar pattern of psychometric characteristics found in the original study.

Conclusion: The implications of the results for both theory and practice were discussed. Future research topics were discussed in terms of the development of new depression evaluation instruments for women.

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Clinical diagnoses and behavioural symptoms of Hungarian adolescent outpatients suffering from self-injurious behaviour

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Background and Aims: Deliberate self-harm is an increasing problem (6-7% prevalence rate) in teenagers. The aims of the study was to present diagnoses of Hungarian self-injurious adolescents and to identify features of SIB.

Sample. 48 female adolescent outpatients collected from a total of 396 new outpatients recently referred and treated in 4 Child Psychiatric centres of Western-Hungary over a one-year admission period.

Assessment methods. a) Hungarian pilot version of the Ottawa Self-injury Inventory for adolescents (OSI), b) M.I.N.I. Plus diagnostic clinical interview, Hungarian standard version.

Results: The leading diagnoses were major depression, one from the anxiety syndromes (social phobia or GAD) and the third leading diagnosis was suicidal behavior. 83 and 64 % reported comorbid suicidal behaviour. The more frequent type is that of self-cutters, the regions affected best are upper and low-arm, hand, thigh, legs. The preferred methods are cutting, scarifying, wound-making and burning of a body region. 40% of SIB patients shares no information (even with her closest friend) about her self-destructive impulses. Motivations are: crisis in romantic relationship, academic or social failure and feeling of denial. The task the girls aim at are to appease her rage, depression, irritable mood and feelings of hurt. 40% continues the risk behavior although she is highly conscious of the disadvantageous consequences.

Conclusions: The majority of SIB adolescents suffer from an episode of MD often in comorbidity with anxiety disorder or with suicidal behavior. SIB has not only an impulsive but an incubated form too. Few SIB patients utilize substitute activities to divert herself from self-destructions and only half is motivated to change.

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Premenstrual dysphoric disorder and major depressive disorder

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A number of mood, behavioural, and somatic symptoms are reported by woman during the late luteal phase of the menstrual cycle. A subset of symptoms comprises premenstrual dysphoric disorder, which is found in the DSM-IV.

The objective of the present paper was to assess associations between premenstrual dysphoric disorder and development of major depressive disorder, as well as to define the possible correlation between clinical course and duration of PMDD and development of MDD.

We surveyed 40 out-treated women, with mean age of 35,6 years. 35 of them had positive family history for premenstrual dysphoric disorder, and 21 of them had positive family history for major depressive disorder. All of the female patients were followed during period of one year. They fulfil criteria for Premenstrual dysphoric disorder according to the DSM-IV criteria. They were treated with fluoxetine or sertraline during the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle. During one year period 27 of these women developed major depressive episode. They fulfilled the DSM-IV criteria for MDD. These female out treated patients were also rated with HAMD rating scale. The authors also observed correlation between the duration of PMDD in the number of days in the luteal phase with the development of MDD.

We can conclude that there may be correlation between the PMDD and MDD in the way that PMDD can be predisposing factor for development of MDD. Possibility of some same etiological factors in the development of PMDD and MDD could be one of the explanations for these results.

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Treatment effects of Venlafaxine on work activity compared to SSRIs in the treatment of MDD according to baseline severity

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Objectives: In this meta-analysis we compared the effects of venlafaxine and SSRIs on work activity in MDD patients classified according to baseline severity

Methods: Data from the work and activity item 7 of the HAMD17 of 31 pooled studies comparing venlafaxine with SSRIs were used. Subjects were divided into two groups based on their baseline HAMD17 total score ≥ 30 / < 30 . Score distributions and the proportions of patients achieving full work functionality were summarized for both LOCF and Completers at week 8. Fisher's exact test was used to compare the treatment effects.

Results: 5836 patients with a baseline HAMD17 < 30 were identified. The OR for all subjects achieving full work functionality is