

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is characterized by affective dysregulation and non-suicidal self-injurious behaviour (NSSI), which is closely linked with reduced pain perception. Several experimental studies revealed reduced pain sensitivity in BPD as well as significant correlations between pain perception, aversive inner tension and dissociation. Psychophysiological experiments revealed no deficit in the sensory-discriminative pain component in BPD. However, neurofunctional investigations point at alterations of the affective-motivational and the cognitive pain component in BPD. Preliminary evidence suggests that disturbed pain processing normalizes when patients stop NSSI after successful psychotherapeutic treatment. We could demonstrate that pain leads to a decrease in affective arousal and amygdala activity in patients with BPD and to an increase in amygdala-prefrontal connectivity. We are currently investigating the role of seeing blood and the importance of self-infliction of pain in the context of NSSI.

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S18

Neural pathways of the association between pain and suicide

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Physical pain and psychological pain are risk factors for suicidal behaviour, and understanding of the neural pathways linking pain and suicide may contribute to suicide prevention. Neuroimaging studies have shown changes in association with physical and psychological pain and with suicidal behaviour. Psychological stressors such as social exclusion may trigger emotional pain that is associated with functional changes in the prefrontal cortex, cingulate cortex, thalamus, and parahippocampal gyrus. This functional network shows considerable overlap with brain areas involved in physical pain and suicidal behaviour. Changes in the brain motivation-valuation circuitry may predict pain persistence and thus contribute to the development of suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

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Culture-society bound psychopathology

S19

Hikikomori and modern-type depression in Japan

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Maladaptive social interaction and its related-psychopathology have been highlighted in psychiatry especially among younger generations. “Hikikomori” defined as a syndrome with six months or longer of severe social withdrawal was initially reported in Japan, and the prevalence rate has been reported as 1.2% in Japanese population. The majority of hikikomori patients are adolescents and young adults who become recluses in their parents’ homes for months or years. They withdraw from contact with family, rarely have friends, and do not attend school or hold a job. An international vignette-used questionnaire survey indicates the spread of hikikomori in many other countries (Kato et al. *Lancet*, 2011; Kato et al. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*, 2012).

In addition, our international clinical studies have revealed the prevalence of hikikomori outside Japan (Teo et al., 2015). On the other hand, a novel form of maladaptive psychopathology, called modern-type depression has emerged in Japan (Kato et al. *J Affect Disord*, 2011; Kato et al. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci*, 2016).

In this presentation, I will introduce “Hikikomori” and “modern-type depression” in Japan, and also propose novel diagnostic/therapeutic approach against them.

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S20

International research on social withdrawal

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Introduction Since the 1990s the term “Hikikomori” has emerged as a way to describe a modern form of severe social withdrawal first described in Japan. Recently, there have been increasing reports of Hikikomori around the globe.

Objectives To describe operationalized research criteria for Hikikomori, as well as epidemiologic, diagnostic, and psychosocial features of the Hikikomori in international settings.

Methods Participants were recruited from sites in India, Japan, Korea, and the US. Hikikomori was defined as a six-month or longer period of spending almost all time at home and avoiding social situations and social relationships, associated with significant distress/impairment. Lifetime history of psychiatric diagnosis was determined by the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV Axis-I and Axis-II Disorders. Additional measures included the Internet Addiction Test, UCLA Loneliness Scale, Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS-6), and Sheehan Disability Scale (SDS).

Results Thirty-six participants meeting diagnostic criteria for Hikikomori were identified, with cases detected in all four countries. Avoidant personality disorder (41%), major depressive disorder (32%), paranoid personality disorder (32%), social anxiety disorder (27%), posttraumatic stress disorder (27%), and depressive personality disorder (27%) were the most common diagnoses. Sixty-eight percent had at least two psychiatric diagnoses. Individuals with Hikikomori had high levels of loneliness (UCLA Loneliness Scale $M = 55.4$, $SD = 10.5$), limited social networks (LSNS-6 $M = 9.7$, $SD = 5.5$), and moderate functional impairment (SDS $M = 16.5$, $SD = 7.9$).

Conclusions Hikikomori exists cross-nationally and can be assessed with a standardized assessment tool. Individuals with Hikikomori have substantial psychosocial impairment and disability, and a history of multiple psychiatric disorders is common.

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Diagnostic process in psychiatry

S21

Transcultural issues in diagnostic process

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Diagnostic systems and methods must respond to patients’ diversity in expressions of mental distress, social and cultural context

and the meanings given to illness. Due to increasing migration and globalisation the challenge of considering diagnosis in the context of culture has become increasingly significant in Europe. And globalization has further led to changes in value systems and our awareness of patients with ethnic minority background.

Over recent decades, there has been an increasing development of psychiatric diagnosing with nosological categorisation combined with multi-axial schemas. Diagnosis, besides identifying a disorder and distinguishing one disorder from another disorder - differential diagnosis, has also an aim to include an overall understanding of the patient's situation.

We witness an upsurge in the attention paid to the cultural limitations to psychiatric diagnostic practice and treatment modalities. Guidelines for the psychiatric profession are in critical focus from a transcultural perspective. Some claim their universality independent of cultural context; others find cultural adaptation useful and necessary.

Do the diagnoses and clinical and ethical guidelines give meaning in the cultural setting? Are they compatible with the cultural values of the therapist and those of the patient and the family? Several sources claim the biomedical paradigm for being Western with insufficient consideration of the socio-political context.

The cultural formulation developed as part of DSM-IV and now DSM-5 is one model to support a systematic review of culture and context in psychiatric diagnosing.

The paper will discuss the advantages and shortcomings of current diagnostic categories and guidelines vis-à-vis the universe of traumatized refugees with other ethnic backgrounds.

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S22

Interview and therapeutic rapport in diagnostic process

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Diagnostic assessment in psychiatry, as a formulation and as a joint re-construction process between the clinician and the patient, is essential in clinical care. Clinical interview is the crucial tool of the clinician in this process. Accordingly, a two-fold task is faced. On one hand, the clinician is in need of making a comprehensive diagnostic assessment to construct a valid and working formulation of the patient's situation and a treatment plan.

On the other hand, the bases for a psychotherapeutic alliance and rapport should be established. A comprehensive diagnostic assessment aims to bridge the current scientific evidence and knowledge with the uniqueness of the specific person who presents for care. The clinician facing the complexities of the human existence in health and ill mental health constructs working hypotheses in the context of the interview, to understand and formulate the psychopathological state. Clinical interview serving as a practical channel in constructing these hypotheses, also serves as the main tool in establishing a therapeutic alliance. The theory and practice of different schools of psychotherapies offer considerable contributions to the clinician in managing these tasks.

Understanding the meaning of the human suffering through empathy in a judgment free milieu is essential in the establishment of rapport, compliance and a better clinical outcome. This presentation will discuss the complexity of diagnostic process in psychiatry and emphasize the contributions of psychotherapeutic theory and skills and humanistic approaches in this process. Brief clinical vignettes from the authors' clinical practice will be used to broaden the scope of discussion.

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Does diet affect mental health? The role of the gut-brain axis in psychiatric disorders

S23

The role of IgG hypersensitivity and changes in gut microbiota in the pathogenesis and therapy of depressive disorders

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Depression is a complex, heterogeneous psychiatric disorder with multifactorial aetiology. Substantial evidence indicates that depressive episodes are associated not only with changes in neurotransmission in the central nervous system (CNS), but also may lead to structural changes in the brain through neuroendocrine, inflammatory, and immunological mechanisms. Among the factors deserving special attention connected with developing systematic inflammation are altered intestinal permeability, IgG food intolerance, and changes in gut microbiota.

We present a possible scenario of the development of depression, linking elevated zonulin production, loosening of the tight junction barrier, an increase in permeability of the gut wall, and the passage of macromolecules, normally staying the gut, into the bloodstream, with the immuno-inflammatory cascade and induction of IgG-dependent food sensitivity. Alterations in bidirectional signaling between the gastrointestinal tract and the brain, so called "microbiota-gut-brain axis", may be normalized by dietary immunomodulating factors, including prebiotics and probiotics. In the case of increased IgG concentrations, the implementation of an elimination-rotation diet may prove to be an effective method of reducing inflammation and, in this way, alleviating depressive symptoms.

Given complexity and variety of mood disorders, it is necessary to develop improved integration models. Preliminary study results raise hope that the new methods mentioned above, i.e. psychobiotics, prebiotics, an elimination-rotation diet, may be an important addition to the psychiatrist's armamentarium as therapeutic agents improving the efficacy of the treatment for affective disorders [1–3].

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