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**PSYCHOMETRICS AND CORRELATES OF THE ADOLESCENT DISSOCIATIVE EXPERIENCES SCALE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBED AND NORMAL PORTUGUESE ADOLESCENTS**

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**Background:** Adolescence is a critical period for dissociation, until more effective coping strategies are developed. Dissociate in a chronic manner is likely to interfere with the construction of a cohesive sense of self, and may potentiate later psychopathology. Adolescent Dissociative Experiences Scale/A-DES is yet to be studied in Portugal.

**Objectives:** Analyze the psychometric properties of the A-DES 11-item format; compare between nonclinical with psychological disturbed adolescents/PDA; and determine the variables that associate with A-DES.

**Methods:** A sample of nonclinical ( $n = 69$ ) and PDA ( $n = 45$ ) aged between 11 to 18 years, 55.3% boys and 44.7% girls, education mean years 8.96 (SD = 2.74), completed the A-DES and the Youth Self Report/YSR.

**Results:** The A-DES had a very good internal consistency ( $\alpha = 0.94$ ), presenting significant large correlations with YSR ( $r = 0.67$ ). Confirmatory factor analysis suggested a 1-factor structure.

The mean scores ( $2.78 \pm 1.82$ ) were equivalent to other countries, and significantly discriminated ( $t = 6.02$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ; Cohen's  $d = 1.12$ ) between the nonclinical ( $M = 2.06 \pm 1.41$ ) and PDA ( $M = 3.89 \pm 1.84$ ).

There were no differences between the sexes, but the younger, less educated, and institutionalized had more dissociative experiences ( $r = 0.21$  to  $0.30$ ). Hierarchical multiple regression revealed that only YSR was statistically significant in predicting levels of A-DES ( $Beta = 0.64$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** The Portuguese A-DES version seems a valid and reliable screening for dissociation amongst adolescents.