

EPV0018

Psychological distress among greek parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder: Is there a link to anxiety symptoms in neurotypical offspring?

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Introduction: Parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are at higher risk of suffering from mental health problems (MHP) than parents of children with other developmental disabilities. Research on the general population documented that MHP in parents contributes as a significant risk factor for maladjustment outcomes in their offspring, while parental anxiety disorders in particular have been associated with a higher prevalence of anxiety disorders in the offspring. However, evidence concerning possible associations between parent-offspring psychological problems in the case of ASD-families is scarce and inconsistent. This study forms a part of a larger PhD study and some preliminary findings have been partially discussed in previous work.

Objectives: To investigate any association between anxiety symptoms in neurotypical offspring (ASD-siblings) with parental MHP.

Methods: 118 parent-child-dyads from ASD-families that fulfilled inclusion criteria participated in this study and answered a demographic questionnaire. Parents were administered the GHQ-28, while the children answered the STAIC-A-Trait. A hierarchical multiple regression was performed to test the hypothesis.

Results: Participating parents demonstrating poorer mental health, with 53 (44.9%) of them considered as suffering from psychological distress according to the score of GHQ-28. Furthermore, hierarchical regression showed that STAIC-(A-Trait) total score of ASD-siblings was associated with parental anxiety (std beta=0.292; p=0.29; model 1) and this association persisted after demographics entered the model (std beta=0.300; p=0.029; model 2).

Conclusions: This study shows a significant association between parental psychological distress and anxiety in the neurotypical offspring in ASD-families, highlighting the need to provide all members of ASD-families with the appropriate services.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: psychological distress; anxiety symptoms; autism spectrum disorder; neurotypical offspring

EPV0019

Anxiety disorders and eating disorder symptoms: The role of disgust sensitivity

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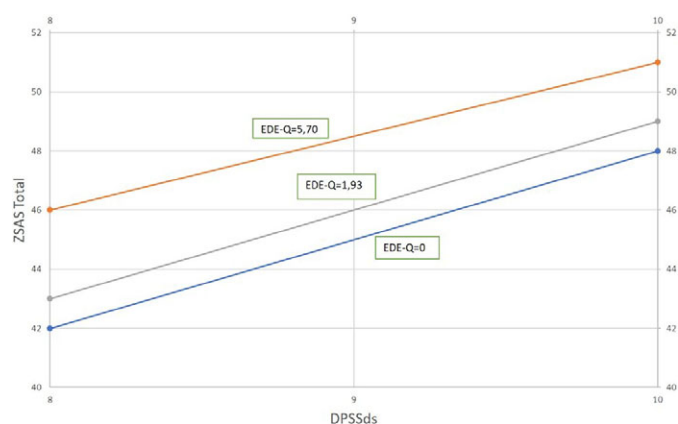
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Introduction: The comorbidity between anxiety disorders (AD) and eating disorders (ED) has already been well discovered, and because of the link between disgust, food choice and rejection (which appear to be key factors of eating psychopathology), it can be suggested that these three aspects may be related. Accordingly, it can be hypothesized that individuals who express heightened levels of both disgust and eating concerns are at a higher risk to develop an AD. By contrast, disgust, as a negative emotion, influences ED symptoms through a greater level of anxiety.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the psychopathological role of disgust and eating disorder symptoms in the development and maintenance of anxiety symptoms in patients with AD.

Methods: We enrolled 84 patients admitted in the Psychiatric Unit of Careggi with diagnosis of Anxiety Disorders. We administered them: Zung Anxiety Scale (ZSAS), Disgust Propensity and Sensibility Scale-revised (DPSS-r) and Eating Disorders Examination Questionnaire (EDE-Q).

Results: A multiple regression model having ZSAS total as dependent variable, and EDE-Q total and DPSS disgust sensitivity subscale as independent variables explained 29% of ZSAS total variance ($R^2=0.290$). The effect of EDE-Q total was positive, significant ($\beta=0.331$, $t=2.631$, $p=0.011$) and explained 11.9% of ZSAS total variance ($pr^2=0.119$). The effect of DPSS disgust sensitivity was positive, significant ($\beta=0.326$, $t=2.595$, $p=0.012$) and explained 11.6% of ZSAS total variance ($pr^2=0.116$) (Fig.1).



Conclusions: Such preliminary data suggest a possible role of feelings of disgust and eating disorder symptoms in development and maintenance of anxiety symptoms in patients with AD, making them a potential target for psychotherapy.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: eating disorders; disgust; disgust sensitivity; anxiety disorders

EPV0020

Transdiagnostic effect of contamination disgust on asceticism

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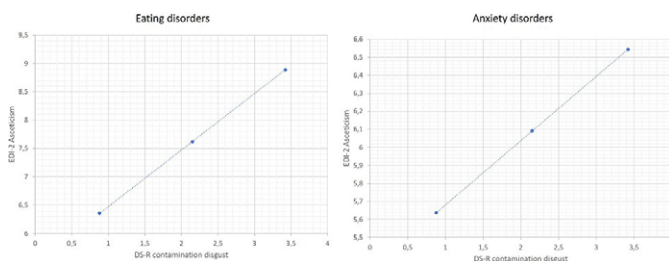
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Introduction: There is a growing literature suggesting disgust plays a major role in religiosity. Asceticism is a personality trait characterized by abstinence from sensual pleasures, often for the purpose of pursuing spiritual goals. Since few studies suggested that higher disgust levels may lead to greater fear of sin, contamination disgust may serve as effective mechanisms for inflated scrupulosity.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the role of contamination disgust on a specific religious belief in two clinical groups: eating disorders and anxiety disorders.

Methods: We enrolled 84 patients admitted in the Psychiatric Unit of Careggi with diagnosis of Anxiety Disorders (AD) and Eating Disorders (ED). We administered them: Disgust Scale Revised (DS-R) and Eating Disorders Inventory 2 (EDI-2)

Results: A t-test for independent samples between AD patients and ED patients showed no difference in DS-R contamination disgust subscale ($t=1.437$, $p=0.153$), while significantly higher EDI-2 asceticism scores were detected in ED patients ($t=2.452$, $p=0.010$). An ANCOVA model having EDI2 Asceticism subscale as dependent variable, and DS contamination disgust subscale, diagnosis, and interaction between contamination disgust and diagnosis was estimated. The overall model was significant ($F(1,136)=4.854$, $p=0.003$) and accounted for 9.7% of variance of EDI2 Asceticism subscale ($R^2=0.097$). The effect of contamination disgust was positive and significant ($\beta=0.302$, $t=2.781$, $p=0.006$), and accounted for 5.4% of variance of EDI2 Asceticism (partial $\eta^2=0.054$). No effect was detected for diagnosis ($F(1,136)=0.012$, $p=0.912$) or interaction between contamination disgust and diagnosis ($F(1,136)=1.346$, $p=0.248$).



Conclusions: Contamination disgust may have a trans-diagnostic effect on asceticism and may be a possible driver for specific religious behaviors.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Asceticism; anxiety disorders; eating disorders; disgust

EPV0021

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adulthood and the heritability of this condition

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Introduction: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a common neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity resulting from the interaction of genetic and environmental risk factors. Family studies shows that persistent ADHD is very familial.

Objectives: We aim to review the literature on this condition and its heritability and describe the implications that a possible misdiagnosis can have during life.

Methods: Bibliography review was performed using the databases PubMed and Cochrane, using the following keywords: “ADHD”; “Adults”; “Heritability”; “Family” and “Rater effect”.

Results: Childhood ADHD persists into adolescence and adulthood substantially, identified in some studies, as going up to 78%. The prevalence of ADHD in children and adults is between 2.5% and 5% worldwide. Family studies have shown that children of adults with ADHD are at higher risk of having ADHD. Some large-scale twin studies of adult ADHD, used self-report assessments of ADHD symptoms and estimated the heritability of this condition to be between 30 to 40%, which differs from other studies that analyse parents and teachers responses and estimates heritability to be between 60 and 90%.

Conclusions: Since there is a direct influence of the evaluators in estimating the extent of ADHD heritability, future studies need to clarify and describe in detail all the related characteristics of the raters. Although ADHD is widely studied, there is still a lot to learn about its etiology. The diagnosis of ADHD is clinical and complex and must be considered both in childhood and adolescence and in adulthood, with special emphasis on the family antecedents.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: heritability; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; Adult

EPV0022

Self-compassion mediates the relationship between self-esteem and social anxiety symptoms in socially anxious individuals

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Introduction: Fear of evaluation and a negative view of the self are the key characteristics of social anxiety, which is one of the most prevalent anxiety problem. Self-esteem refers to views of oneself, including individual's personal feelings towards self, whereas self-compassion refers to caring attitude toward oneself. Both constructs are two distinct positive views of the self, and were found to be related to each other, well-being and good mental health. To date, however, little is known, how they interplay in people with predominantly negative view of themselves, that is in socially anxious individuals.