

## Anxiety Disorders and Somatoform Disorders

## Abstract

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## EPV0001

## The role of Theory of Mind and Empathy levels in Anxiety Disorders Symptomatology

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**Introduction:** Theory of Mind (ToM) is defined as the ability to understand mental states of other people. Recent studies explored its role in various psychopathological disorders, but evidence lacks on the relationship existing between specific psychopathological domains and ToM.

**Objectives:** We aimed to investigate the relationship between psychopathology of Anxiety Disorders (AD) and Theory of Mind.

**Methods:** We enrolled 35 patients admitted to the Psychiatric Unit of Careggi Hospital in Florence with diagnosis of AD. We administered them: Zung Anxiety Scale (ZSAS), Metacognition Questionnaire-30 (MCQ-30), and Reading the Mind in the Eyes (RMET). Pearson's correlation was used to assess relationships between variables.

**Results:** A significant positive correlation was detected between RMET scores and ZSAS total scores ( $r=0.385$ ,  $p=0.022$ ), MCQ-30 Negative Beliefs about Uncontrollability and Danger subscale (MCQ-30-Neg,  $r=0.407$ ,  $p=0.015$ ), and MCQ-30 Cognitive Self-Consciousness subscale (MCQ-30-CSC,  $r=0.349$ ,  $p=0.040$ ).

Correlations between the variables in the study and Reading the mind in the eyes total scores are shown.		
	RMET total score	
	r	p
MCQ-30-Neg	0.407	<b>0.015</b>
MCQ-30-CSC	0.349	<b>0.040</b>
MCQ-30 Positive beliefs about Worry	0.073	0.667
MCQ-30 Lack of Cognitive Confidence	-0.245	0.155
MCQ-30 Need to Control Thoughts	0.311	0.069
ZSAS total scores	0.385	<b>0.022</b>

**Conclusions:** Such preliminary data suggest a relationship between Theory of Mind and AD psychopathology. In particular, some dimensions of AD psychopathology seem to predict higher Theory of Mind levels.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** Empathy; Theory of Mind; Anxiety disorders; Anxiety

## EPV0002

## Histamine intolerance and anxiety disorders: pilot cross-sectional study of histamine intolerance prevalence in cohort of patients with anxiety disorders

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**Introduction:** Histamine intolerance (HI) is a disorder associated with an impairment of ability to metabolize ingested histamine. The incidence of HI in general population is 1-3%. Clinical manifestation of HI contains nonspecific predominantly gastrointestinal, but also extraintestinal symptoms. HI could be primary with genetic predisposition, or secondary with lower activity of diaminoxidase (DAO) without positive genetic screening.

**Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the prevalence of HI by patients with anxiety disorders. HI can imitate anxiety symptoms, therefore we predict higher prevalence HI in patients with anxiety disorders than in general population.

**Methods:** It is observational cross-sectional study on cohort of anxious patients for detecting the prevalence of HI. Patients were screened by scale for histamine intolerance questionnaire. Patients with positive questionnaire were examined for serum DAO and genetically examined.

**Results:** 113 patients fulfilled the HI questionnaire. From this cohort 35.4% (40 subjects) were positive at screening. Biomarkers of HI were screened only in case of positivity in this questionnaire.

**Table No. 1:** Results of our study from cohort with positive screening, 35.4 % (40 subjects).

Serum level of DAO		Genetic predisposition		
		positivity in risk allele	negativity in risk allele	altogether
positive screening (DAO < 10 U/ml)		5 (4.4%) primary-genetically determined HI	5 (4.4%) secondary HI	10
	negative screening (DAO ≥ 10 U/ml)	14 (12.4%)	16 (14.2%)	30
altogether		19	21	

**Conclusions:** This pilot study shows that the prevalence of HI could be higher in group of patients with anxiety disorders than in general population. For further confirmation other studies with control group and larger cohort should be done.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** anxiety symptoms; diaminoxidase; genetic examination; histamine intolerance

## EPV0004

### Clinical effects of central antagonist of cholecystokinin-1 receptors GB-115 in patients with Generalized Anxiety Disorder

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**Introduction:** The pilot clinical study of GB-115, a new peptide antagonist of central cholecystokinin-1 receptors, revealed that drug was clinically effective in patients with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) at dose 6 mg daily. Here, we provide results of post-hoc analysis of changes of anxiety and fatigue symptoms to give characterization of its clinical effects in clinically relevant doses.

**Objectives:** To research the changes of anxiety- and fatigue-related symptoms during GB-115 treatment in patients with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

**Methods:** Patients with GAD without somatic diseases aged 18-55 years were eligible in the study. Patients were prescribed with GB-115 6 mg daily for 21 days. Anxiety and fatigue symptoms were assessed with Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HARS) and Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory (MFI-20). Variables are described as medians and interquartile range (IQR). Pre-post comparisons were performed using the Friedman ANOVA at 2-side p-value <0.05.

**Results:** 25 patients diagnosed with GAD (8 males, 17 females; median [IQR] age: 34 [29.75, 43.0]) included in the analysis. Median [IQR] HARS total score decreased from 22 [20, 24.5] to 19 [16, 20], 13 [10.5, 15.5], 9 [5.5, 11] and 5 [3.5, 8] on the Day 3, 7, 14 and 21, respectively ( $\chi^2=95.07$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Median [IQR] MFI-20 score decreased from 70 [46, 75.5] to 59 [41, 74.5], 52 [37.5, 64.5], 37 [26.5, 63] and 28 [24, 48.5] on the Day 3, 7, 14 and 21, respectively ( $\chi^2=55.41$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). None of patients had stimulation-related side effects.

**Conclusions:** GB-115 action in the treatment of GAD patients is characterized with anxiolytic action with mild psychostimulant properties.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** anxiety disorder; cholecystokinin; anxiolytic

## EPV0005

### Panic Disorder Severity Scale self-report: transcultural validation and sensitivity to change of the French-Canadian adaptation

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**Introduction:** The self-report version of the Panic Disorder Severity Scale (PDSS-SR) is a reliable and valid instrument to assess panic disorder, but is unavailable in French.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to conduct a transcultural validation of the French-Canadian PDSS-SR and examine its psychometric properties.

**Methods:** This study is part of a pragmatic RCT of group transdiagnostic CBT for anxiety disorders, and includes 272 adults meeting DSM-5 panic disorder diagnostic criteria. At baseline, participants completed the Anxiety and Related Disorders Interview Schedule (ADIS-5), the French-Canadian PDSS-SR and self-report measures. Convergent validity was assessed with Spearman correlations, Cronbach's  $\alpha$  was used to analyse internal consistency, and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) evaluated its factor structure. Sensitivity to change was assessed with paired sample t-tests in patients (n = 72) meeting DSM-5 criteria for panic disorder at baseline with posttreatment data.

**Results:** 108 patients met DSM-5 criteria for panic disorder, including 58 with agoraphobia. The majority were women (85.3%) and