DOI: 10.1002/eat.23481

Accepted: 21 January 2021

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

One size does not fit all. Genomics differentiates among anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder

Christopher Hübel MD, PhD^{1,2,3,4} Mohamed Abdulkadir MSc^{5,6} Moritz Herle PhD⁷ I Ruth J. F. Loos PhD⁸ Gerome Breen PhD^{1,2} I (Cynthia M. Bulik PhD^{4,9,10} Nadia Micali MD, PhD^{5,6,11}

¹Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, London, UK

²UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health, South London and Maudsley Hospital, London, UK

³National Centre for Register-based Research, Aarhus Business and Social Sciences, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

⁴Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

⁵Department of Pediatrics Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

⁶Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

⁷Department of Biostatistics and Health Informatics, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, London, UK

⁸Charles Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

⁹Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

¹⁰Department of Nutrition, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

¹¹Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, University College London, London, UK

Correspondence

Nadia Micali, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland. Email: nadia.micali@hcuge.ch

Funding information

Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, Grant/Award Number: TR130505; Lundbeckfonden, Grant/ Award Number: R276-2018-4581; Maudsley Charity, Grant/Award Number: 980: Medical Research Council, Grant/Award Numbers: 102215/2/13/2, MR/R004803/1, MR/ T027843/1: National Institute for Health Research, Grant/Award Number: CS/01/2008/014; National Institute of Mental Health Grant/Award Numbers: R01 MH109528 R01MH119084, R01MH120170, R21 MH115397, R21MH115397; National Institutes of Health, Grant/Award Number: MH087786-01: South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust; Vetenskapsrådet, Grant/Award Number: 538-2013-8864: Wellcome Trust, Grant/Award Number: 217065/Z/19/Z

Abstract

Objective: Genome-wide association studies have identified multiple genomic regions associated with anorexia nervosa. No genome-wide studies of other eating disorders, such as bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder, have been performed, despite their substantial heritability. Exploratively, we aimed to identify traits that are genetically associated with binge-type eating disorders.

Method: We calculated genome-wide polygenic scores for 269 trait and disease outcomes using PRSice v2.2 and their association with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder in up to 640 cases and 17,050 controls from the UK Biobank. Significant associations were tested for replication in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (up to 217 cases and 3,018 controls).

Results: Individuals with binge-type eating disorders had higher polygenic scores than controls for other psychiatric disorders, including depression, schizophrenia, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and higher polygenic scores for body mass index.

Discussion: Our findings replicate some of the known comorbidities of eating disorders on a genomic level and motivate a deeper investigation of shared and unique genomic factors across the three primary eating disorders.

Action Editor: Ruth Weissman

Christopher Hübel and Mohamed Abdulkadir contributed equally to this work.

Cynthia M. Bulik and Nadia Micali shared last authorship.

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KEYWORDS

Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), binge-eating disorder, polygenic scores, UK Biobank

1 | INTRODUCTION

Eating disorders are complex and heritable psychiatric conditions (Yilmaz, Hardaway, & Bulik, 2015). The most studied is anorexia nervosa, which is characterized by dangerously low body weight and extreme fear of gaining weight, while engaging in behaviors that induce negative energy balance, such as fasting or, in some cases, excessive exercise (Treasure et al., 2015). In contrast, individuals with bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder experience episodes of excessive overeating (i.e., binge eating) accompanied by a sense of loss of control, in which they consume unusually large amounts of food in a short period of time. Individuals with bulimia nervosa also engage in recurrent compensatory behaviors (e.g., self-induced vomiting, laxative, or diuretic abuse) to counteract the effects of binge eating (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Twin, family, and adoption studies over the past 30 years have shown that eating disorders are heritable (Yilmaz et al., 2015). The largest genome-wide association study (GWAS) to date identified eight genomic regions associated with anorexia nervosa and also found genetic correlations with obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety, and major depressive disorder. This implies that anorexia nervosa shares genetic risk variants with these phenotypes. However, the study also found that anorexia nervosa has significant negative genetic correlations with anthropometric traits, including body mass index (BMI), fat mass, and fat-free mass. This means that anorexia nervosa risk variants are enriched for variants associated with lower BMI. fat mass, and fat-free mass (Duncan et al., 2017; Hübel et al., 2019; Watson et al., 2019). The GWAS additionally highlighted a shared genetic basis between anorexia nervosa and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, fasting insulin, as well as insulin sensitivity, suggesting that anorexia nervosa may have a metabolic component. It is unclear, however, if binge-type eating disorders may also have a metabolic component.

Although twin and family studies demonstrate a positive genetic correlation (~0.46) between anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, indicating considerable shared genetics (Bulik et al., 2010; Yao et al., 2019), GWASs of bulimia nervosa or binge-eating disorder with sufficient size have yet to be conducted to allow well-powered investigations of their molecular genetic correlations with each other. On a phenotypic level, binge-eating disorder co-occurs with anxiety, depression, as well as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, substance abuse, and personality disorders. In addition, individuals with binge-eating disorder commonly have overweight or obesity (Hilbert, 2019). We have previously suggested that increased genetic liability for obesity was associated with increased risk of binge eating in adolescence (Abdulkadir et al., 2020). In contrast, it is not well understood the extent to which binge-type eating disorders share genetics with other psychiatric, anthropometric, and metabolic traits.

To explore differences in the genetics of eating disorders and generate new hypotheses regarding their genetic overlap with

other traits, we conducted polygenic score analyses to identify traits that are genetically associated with either of the three primary eating disorders: anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, or bingeeating disorder in a subsample of the UK Biobank (Sudlow et al., 2015) with attempted replication in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) cohort.

2 | METHOD

2.1 | Discovery sample of the UK Biobank

The UK Biobank (ukbiobank.ac.uk) is a unique epidemiological resource to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of psychiatric and somatic illnesses. The UK Biobank recruited participants from the general population between 2006 and 2010. All participants were between 40 and 69 years old, were registered with a general practitioner through the United Kingdom's National Health Service, and lived within traveling distance of one of the assessment centers (Allen, Sudlow, Peakman, Collins, & Biobank, 2014; Sudlow et al., 2015). The UK Biobank is approved by the North West Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee. Genomewide array data for this study were available for 488,363 individuals (Bycroft et al., 2018). All participants gave written consent. Blood samples for the UK Biobank participants were drawn at the baseline visit and genotyping, imputation, and quality control are described in detail in the Supporting Information. We identified non-European participants by 4-means clustering on the first two principal components derived from the genotype data, and excluded related individuals (KING relatedness metric >0.088, equivalent to a relatedness value of 0.25; N = 7,765) (Warren et al., 2017).

In the UK Biobank data set, we identified 1,550 individual participants with any eating disorder. They either self-reported one or multiple of the three primary eating disorders anorexia nervosa (n = 720), bulimia nervosa (n = 402), or binge-eating disorder (n = 561) in the mental health questionnaire (Davis et al., 2020) or had an International Classification of Diseases, version 10 (ICD-10) (World Health Organization, 1992) hospital diagnosis recorded in the Hospital Episode Statistics of F50.0 or F50.1 for anorexia nervosa (n = 48), F50.2 or F50.3 for bulimia nervosa (n = 21), or F50.5 for vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances, F50.8 for other eating disorders, including pica or F50.9 for eating disorder, unspecified (n = 15). We excluded the 15 participants with F50.5, F50.8, and F50.9 from this analysis due to insufficient numbers to perform analyses. This resulted in 768 (4.7%) participants with anorexia nervosa, 423 (2.7%) with bulimia nervosa, and 561 (3.5%), with binge-eating disorder because if participants self-reported more than one eating disorder diagnosis (n = 194), they were assigned to all applicable primary eating disorder groups. We randomly sampled one set of controls in the ratio of 1-10, resulting in 15,500 controls by using the following exclusion

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criteria: Controls must have answered the mental health questionnaire (Davis et al., 2020), were not diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder (i.e., self-report or ICD-10 diagnosis), or taking any psychotropic medication. The subsample included 17,050 (92% female) European participants (for full descriptives of the UK Biobank sample, see Table S1) representing 3.4% of the UK Biobank participants (n = 502,682). This study was completed under the UK Biobank approved study application 27546.

2.2 | Sample from the ALSPAC

The ALSPAC is a population-based sample of pregnant women and their children based in the former county of Avon, United Kingdom (Boyd et al., 2013; Fraser et al., 2013; Golding et al., 2001). Women expected to deliver from April 1, 1991, until December 31, 1992, were invited to participate. Children from 14,541 pregnancies were enrolled and 13,988 alive at 1 year. Additionally, 913 children were enrolled at age 7 years. All women gave written informed consent. Children at age 14 (Wave 14, *n* = 10,581), 16 (Wave 16, *n* = 9,702), and 18 years (Wave 18, n = 9,505) who had not withdrawn consent were followed up. Of these 6,140 (58%) responded at Wave 14, 5,069 (52%) at Wave 16, and 3,228 (34%) at Wave 18. Parents answered questionnaires on 7,025 adolescents at Wave 14 and on 5,656 at Wave 16 which was used to augment the validity of the probable eating disorder diagnoses (Micali et al., 2015). The study website contains details of all the data that is available through a fully searchable data dictionary and variable search tool (www. bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/our-data/). Biological samples as part of the ALSPAC study were obtained at several time points from birth until the age of 24 years. DNA has been extracted from the child's blood (preferentially using samples collected at 7 years or later, but failing this from cord blood). In all, over 10,300 child samples are available for DNA assays. Genotyping, imputation, and quality control are described in detail in the Supporting Information. To reduce potential confounding through genetic relatedness in our analyses, we removed randomly one individual of each pair that is closely related (φ > 0.2) using PLINK v1.90 (Chang et al., 2015), excluding 75 individuals that were duplicates, monozygotic twins, first-degree relatives (i.e., parent-offspring and full siblings), or second-degree relatives (i.e., half-siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and double cousins, for a description of the ALSPAC sample, see Table S2).

We derived probable eating disorder diagnoses as previously reported (for diagnostic algorithms, see Table S3; Micali et al., 2015), using a combination of adolescent self-report as well as information on the adolescents provided by their parents, best practice in childhood psychiatric disorders.

Ethical approval for the ALSPAC participants of this study was obtained from the ALSPAC Ethics and Law Committee and the Local Research Ethics Committees (www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/ research-ethics/). Consent for biological samples has been collected in accordance with the Human Tissue Act (2004) and informed consent for the use of data collected via questionnaires and clinics was obtained from participants following the recommendations of the ALSPAC Ethics and Law Committee at the time.

2.3 | Polygenic risk scoring on eating disorder phenotypes in UK Biobank and replication in ALSPAC

We used PRSice (Choi & O'Reilly, 2019), version 2.2.3. We clumped the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that were present both in the summary statistics of the trait and in the genotype data of the UK Biobank (i.e., overlapping SNPs) to obtain genetically independent SNPs. We retained the SNP with the smallest p value in each 250 kilobase window of all those in linkage disequilibrium ($r^2 > 0.1$). We calculated 269 polygenic scores at their optimal p value threshold in each individual by scoring the number of effect alleles (weighted by the allele effect size) across the set of remaining SNPs (for a full list of all polygenic scores, see Table S4). The discovery GWASs were taken from an internally curated database of summary statistics. As our study is hypothesis-generating, we only excluded GWAS that contained either UK Biobank or ALSPAC participants to avoid sample overlap which can result in false positive associations. We calculated the polygenic score using the high-resolution scoring (i.e., incrementally across a large number of p value thresholds) method to identify the p value threshold at which the polygenic score is optimally associated with the outcome and explains the most variance (i.e., resulting in the highest adjusted R^2 for continuous outcomes and Nagelkerke's R^2 on the liability scale for binary outcomes). We evaluated the associations between polygenic score and eating disorder diagnosis using logistic regressions, adjusted for sex and the first six principal components that were calculated on the European subsample. To adjust for overfitting, we permuted case-control status at every p value threshold 10,000 times and, hence, calculated empirical p values. We converted the observed R^2 to the liability scale assuming following population prevalences of 3% for anorexia nervosa, 1.8% for bulimia nervosa, and 3% for binge-eating disorder (Micali et al., 2017; Smink, Hoeken, Oldehinkel, & Hoek, 2014).

To correct for multiple testing (i.e., 269 polygenic score regression models), we calculated *Q* values using the false discovery rate approach (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995; Benjamini & Yekutieli, 2001). We did not stratify analyses by sex because of the low number of male eating disorder cases, but included sex as a covariate. We used the UK Biobank sample as our discovery cohort and the SNPs that were included in the strongest associated polygenic score were used to derive polygenic scores in the ALSPAC sample, in which we repeated the analysis also adjusting for sex, and the first six ancestry-informative principal components.

3 | RESULTS

Descriptive statistics of the analyses samples included from UK Biobank and ALSPAC are listed in Tables S1 and S2.

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(a)		Outcome 🔶	Binge-eating disorder (n = 561)	Bulimia nervosa (n = 423) 🔶 Anorexia nervosa (n = 768)
Psychiatric & behavioral polygenic scores	Schizophrenia (PGC1)			
	PTSD			
	Obsessive compulsive disorder			
	Migraine			
	Major depressive disorder (PGC2)		1	
	Lifetime cannabis use			
	Education years		_	
	Borderline personality disorder			
	Bipolar disorder (PGC2)			
	Autism spectrum disorder			
	Anxiety disorders		1	
	Anorexia nervosa (PGC2)			
	Alcohol dependence		1	
	ADHD			
(b)				
Metabolic	Type 2 diabetes 2017			
	Insulin resistance			
	HDL cholesterol			
	Fasting insulin (BMI-adjusted)			
(-)	Waist circumference			
(C)	Overweight			
Anthropometric	Obesity class 3			
	Obesity class 2			
	Obesity class 1		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Hip circumference			
	Height 2014			
	Extreme BMI			
	Childhood obesity			
	BMI male			
	BMI female			
	BMI			
	Age at menarche			
				.00 1.25 1.50 eviation (SD) increase of polygenic score

FIGURE 1 Polygenic scores associated with eating disorders in the UK Biobank. (a) Psychiatric and behavioral, (b) metabolic, and (c) anthropometric polygenic scores and their association estimates with self-reported or hospital-diagnosed eating disorders in the UK Biobank sample (n = 17,050). Filled dots are statistically significant after adjustment for multiple testing through the false discovery approach. Dots represent odds ratios and error bars index 95% confidence intervals obtained via logistic regression and 10,000 permutations to obtain empirical p values. ADHD, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; BMI, body mass index; HDL cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; PTSD, posttraumatic stress disorder [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

Polygenic scoring on eating disorder 3.1 | phenotypes in UK Biobank and ALSPAC

After correcting for multiple testing using the false discovery rate adjustment, 18 polygenic scores were significantly associated with the three primary eating disorders in the subsample of the UK Biobank (Figure 1).

Psychiatric disorders and neurological 3.1.1 disease

Five polygenic scores reflecting polygenic liability for psychiatric disorders and one neurological disease showed significant associations with eating disorders (for full results, see Table S4, and for significant results, see Table S5). The schizophrenia polygenic score was

positively associated with anorexia nervosa (odds ratio [OR] per standard deviation in polygenic score = 1.18, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 1.09–1.27; Q = 0.03) and binge-eating disorder (OR = 1.23, 95% Cl = 1.13-1.35; Q = 0.01). The major depressive disorder polygenic score was positively associated with anorexia nervosa (OR = 1.20, 95% CI = 1.11-1.29; Q = 0.01) and binge-eating disorder (OR = 1.25, 95% CI = 1.14-1.36; Q = 0.01). Additionally, the attention deficit hyperactivity disorder polygenic score was positively associated with binge-eating disorder (OR = 1.28, 95% CI = 1.17-1.39; Q = 0.01). The bipolar disorder polygenic score (OR = 1.17, 95% CI = 1.08-1.26; Q = 0.04), the anorexia nervosa polygenic score (OR = 1.32, 95%) CI = 1.22-1.42; Q = 0.01), and the migraine polygenic score (OR = 1.17, 95% CI = 1.09-1.26; Q = 0.04) were positively associated with anorexia nervosa. Even though associations for psychiatric traits did not reach statistical significance for both bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder, the patterning of associations for both disorders is comparable (Figure 1).

3.1.2 | Somatic traits

Several polygenic scores indexing polygenic load for anthropometric traits, including waist circumference (OR = 1.43, 95% CI = 1.31-1.56; Q = 0.01), hip circumference (OR = 1.39, 95% CI = 1.27-1.51; Q = 0.01), overweight (OR = 1.35, 95% CI = 1.24-1.47; Q = 0.01), obesity Class 1 (OR = 1.38, 95% Cl = 1.27-1.51; Q = 0.01), Class 2 (OR = 1.33, 95% CI = 1.22-1.45; Q = 0.01) and Class 3 (OR = 1.21, 95% CI = 1.11-1.32; Q = 0.04), BMI (OR = 1.44, 95% CI = 1.32-1.56; Q = 0.01), and extreme BMI (OR = 1.32, 95% CI = 1.22-1.44; Q = 0.01) were positively associated with binge-eating disorder. However, it is important to note that these polygenic scores were correlated with each other with r = .10 to r = .67 (for correlations among the polygenic scores, see Figure S1). Additionally, the childhood obesity polygenic score (OR = 1.22, 95% CI = 1.12-1.33; Q = 0.04) was positively associated with binge-eating disorder, while the age at menarche polygenic score (OR = 0.79, 95% CI = 0.72-0.86; Q = 0.01) was negatively associated with binge-eating disorder. Neither the childhood obesity nor the age at menarche polygenic score was associated with anorexia nervosa.

The overweight polygenic score (OR = 1.26, 95% CI = 1.14-1.38; Q = 0.01) and the waist circumference polygenic score (OR = 1.25, 95% CI = 1.13-1.38; Q = 0.02) were also positively associated with bulimia nervosa.

3.1.3 | Sex and age differences

The adult obesity polygenic score was more strongly associated with anorexia nervosa than the childhood obesity polygenic score. The difference in the log odds ratios was statistically significant (difference = -0.15, p = .004). We did not detect age differences in the associations of the obesity polygenic scores with bulimia nervosa or binge-eating disorder

(for age and sex differences, see Table S6). We found no evidence for sex differences in the associations of the BMI polygenic score with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, or binge-eating disorder.

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3.1.4 | Sensitivity analyses

We compared logistic regression results when assigning participants to all possible eating disorder diagnoses with assigning participants exclusively to one eating disorder diagnosis in the UK Biobank sample. The effect sizes of both analyses correlated with r = .98, indicating that the analyses were not sensitive to participant overlap (for a scatterplot of the correlation between the effect sizes, see Figure S2).

3.1.5 | Independent replication

In ALSPAC (for full replication results, see Table S7), the overweight polygenic score (OR = 1.38, 95% CI = 1.13–1.69; $p_{empirical} = .05$) and the obesity Class 1 polygenic score (OR = 1.23, 95% CI = 1.00–1.50; $p_{empirical} = .001$) were positively associated with binge-eating disorder. Correlations between these polygenic scores are presented in Figure S3.

4 | DISCUSSION

Here, we present the first molecular genetic evidence that the underlying biology differs between binge-type eating disorders, including bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder, and anorexia nervosa and these differences can be captured at the genomic level. In the following, we discuss bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder grouped as binge-type eating disorders because they showed a similar pattern of associations with the polygenic scores, especially with reference to psychiatric/behavioral and anthropometric phenotypes (Figure 1). Although the associations for psychiatric traits with bulimia nervosa did not reach significance, most likely due to inadequate statistical power, the patterning of associations for the two binge-type eating disorders was comparable. Our UK Biobank analyses propose strong positive associations between bulimia nervosa/binge-eating disorder and anthropometric polygenic scores (e.g., overweight and waist circumference), suggesting that binge eating shares genomic variants with overweight and obesity. In contrast, for anorexia nervosa, the direction of these associations was reversed. Binge-eating disorder also showed an association with the childhood obesity polygenic score while anorexia nervosa did not, further highlighting the genomic differences between binge-type eating disorders and anorexia nervosa. The genetic relationship between binge eating and BMI had been studied previously (Abdulkadir et al., 2020; Bulik, Sullivan, & Kendler, 2003) and is replicated by our analyses. It is notable that previous work suggests that genomic variants associated with BMI are

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predominantly expressed in brain tissue (Finucane et al., 2018). Our results also suggest that these BMI-associated genomic variants are relevant for eating disorders, but may act in opposite directions in binge-type eating disorders and anorexia nervosa.

Using the UK Biobank data, we also found that psychiatric polygenic scores (e.g., schizophrenia and major depressive disorder) were positively associated with both anorexia nervosa and binge-eating disorder (Figure 1a). The attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) polygenic score was only significantly associated with binge-eating disorder, while the anorexia polygenic score was not associated with bulimia nervosa or binge-eating disorder.

Our findings are in agreement with previous studies that showed genetic correlations between binge eating and depression (Munn-Chernoff et al., 2015) as well as genetic correlations between anorexia nervosa and depression (Wade, Bulik, Neale, & Kendler, 2000; Watson et al., 2019), migraine (Mustelin, Raevuori, Kaprio, & Keski-Rahkonen, 2014), schizophrenia (Duncan et al., 2017; Watson et al., 2019), bipolar disorder (Stahl et al., 2019), and anthropometric traits (Duncan et al., 2017; Watson et al., 2019). In line with our findings, previous GWASs showed no genomic association between anorexia nervosa and ADHD, whereas an ADHD polygenic score was associated with binge eating in a Swedish twin sample (Capusan et al., 2017; Yao, Kuja-Halkola, et al., 2019) like in our analysis. Moreover, a large evidence-base highlights phenotypic overlap between ADHD and binge eating (Cortese et al., 2016; Leventakou et al., 2016; Sonneville et al., 2015).

Large GWASs have recently suggested the involvement of a metabolic component in anorexia nervosa through genetic correlations (Duncan et al., 2017; Watson et al., 2019); however, at the current sample size, we did not observe associations between metabolic polygenic scores and the three primary eating disorders in the UK Biobank most probably due to limited statistical power (Figure 1b).

The association between polygenic liability for higher body mass and eating disorders is further complicated as it shows age dependence (Hübel et al., 2019) and confounding through age at menarche. In both the UK Biobank and the ALSPAC cohort, we found that age at menarche and BMI polygenic scores were negatively correlated with each other. However, the age at menarche polygenic score was only negatively associated with binge-eating disorder but not with anorexia nervosa (Figure 1c). Phenotypic associations between early menarche and bulimia nervosa have previously been reported (Fairburn, Cooper, Doll, & Welch, 1999; Reichborn-Kjennerud, Bulik, Sullivan, Tambs, & Harris, 2004), but do not always replicate (Algars et al., 2014). On a genetic level, binge eating correlated negatively with age at menarche in a twin study (Baker, Thornton, Bulik, Kendler, & Lichtenstein, 2012) and anorexia nervosa was not genetically correlated with age at menarche in our polygenic score analysis nor in previous GWASs (Duncan et al., 2017; Watson et al., 2019). This suggests that the association between age at menarche and eating disorders may be driven by symptoms related to binge eating rather than restriction.

Furthermore, ADHD and BMI show a positive genetic correlation (Demontis et al., 2019; Hübel et al., 2019) and in our analysis the ADHD polygenic score was associated with binge-eating disorder. Clinically, the ADHD medication lisdexamfetamine is used to treat binge-eating disorder (Hudson, McElroy, Ferreira-Cornwell, Radewonuk, & Gasior, 2017). This combined evidence suggests that the shared biology between ADHD and BMI may contribute to binge eating. These novel findings warrant further research; investigating how genomic variants associated with ADHD, commonly characterized by inattention and impulsivity, are also associated with binge-eating disorder and contribute to the high comorbidity between ADHD and obesity (Cortese et al., 2016; Leventakou et al., 2016; Sonneville et al., 2015).

Our findings must be interpreted in the light of the following limitations: The number of individuals with eating disorders in both samples was relatively small. Especially, we could only identify 423 individuals with bulimia nervosa in the UK Biobank, considerably limiting power to detect statistically significant results. The same is true for the replication sample drawn from the ALSPAC cohort, which only contained up to 217 cases and 3,018 controls. In addition, the samples only included white British participants requiring investigations in more diverse samples. Most of the eating disorder diagnoses and symptoms were selfreported, meaning that they were not diagnosed using clinical diagnostic instruments. Symptom constellations used in ALSPAC to identify cases do not fully correspond to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth Edition: DSM-5 (DSM-5) or ICD-10 diagnostic criteria; but classification of eating disorders was derived largely based on DSM-5 criteria. However, symptoms and derived diagnoses in the ALSPAC cohort were obtained both from parents and adolescents, representing best practice in child and adolescent psychiatry (Angold et al., 2012; Boyle et al., 2017; Duncan et al., 2019), strengthening the validity of the diagnoses.

Furthermore, we were unable to differentiate between bingeeating/purging and restricting anorexia nervosa as subtype information was not available. The absence of subtype differentiation may have masked important differences in polygenic load that could be associated with specific disordered eating symptoms and should be investigated in more detail. However, preliminary findings showed no difference in the genetic load for anorexia nervosa between individuals with and without binge eating (Watson et al., 2019). We would also like to acknowledge that some information may have been missed by collapsing and discussing bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder as binge-type eating disorders as the directionality of the displayed associations (Figure 1) with metabolic polygenic scores (i.e., Type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, and fasting insulin) differs between bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder. However, none of these associations remained significant after correction for multiple testing and the associations should be investigated when first GWAS of binge-type eating disorders have been performed using follow-up methods like genetic correlations or Mendelian randomization. Further, replication studies are essential to lend confidence to the results reported here.

Our findings show for the first time that similarities exist in the genomic psychiatric liability for binge-type eating disorders and anorexia nervosa. However, we find clear differences between biology of body mass regulation at the genomic level. These findings open important avenues for translational research relevant to eating disorder phenotypes and overlap between eating disorders. Specifically, it remains unknown which biological mechanisms are shared between ADHD and binge eating.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are deeply grateful to all the families who took part in this study, the midwives for their help in recruiting them, and the whole ALSPAC team, which includes interviewers, computer and laboratory technicians, clerical workers, research scientists, volunteers, managers, receptionists, and nurses. This study was completed as part of approved UK Biobank study applications 27546 to Prof. Breen. This study represents independent research part funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the UK NHS, the NIHR, or the Department of Health. High performance computing facilities were funded with capital equipment grants from the GSTT Charity (TR130505) and Maudsley Charity (980). This work was supported by the UK Medical Research Council and the Medical Research Foundation (ref: MR/R004803/1). The UK Medical Research Council and Wellcome (Grant ref: 102215/2/13/2 and 217065/Z/19/Z) and the University of Bristol provide core support for ALSPAC. A comprehensive list of grants funding is available on the ALSPAC website (http://www. bristol.ac.uk/alspac/external/documents/grant-acknowledgements.pdf); This research was specifically funded by the NIHR (CS/01/2008/014), the NIH (MH087786-01). GWAS data were generated by Sample Logistics and Genotyping Facilities at Wellcome Sanger Institute and LabCorp (Laboratory Corporation of America) using support from 23andMe. N. M. and C. M. B. acknowledge funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (R21 MH115397). C. M. B. acknowledges funding from the Swedish Research Council (VR Dnr: 538-2013-8864), the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health (R21MH115397; R01 MH109528; R01MH120170; R01MH119084; R01MH120170), and Lundbeckfonden. C. H. acknowledges funding by Lundbeckfonden (R276-2018-4581). M. H. is supported by fellowship from the Medical Research Council UK (MR/T027843/1). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. The funders were not involved in the design or conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, or interpretation of the data; or preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Dr. Breen has received grant funding from and served as a consultant to Eli Lilly, has received honoraria from Illumina, and has served on advisory boards for Otsuka. Dr. Bulik is a grant recipient from and has served on advisory boards for Shire and is a consultant for Idorsia. She receives royalties from Pearson. She is a grant recipient from Lundbeckfonden. All other authors have indicated they have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Christopher Hübel, Mohamed Abdulkadir, and Moritz Herle analyzed the data and drafted the manuscript. Cynthia M. Bulik, Nadia Micali, Ruth J. F. Loos, and Gerome Breen supervised the work. All authors substantially contributed to the conception and interpretation of the work, revised the manuscript for important intellectual content, and approved the final version. All authors agree to be accountable for all aspects of this work.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

This study is based on data from the UK Biobank. Researchers can apply for the data via the following website: https://www.ukbiobank. ac.uk. This study is based on data from the ALSPAC study (http:// www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/). Interested researchers can apply for data access with the University of Bristol, UK. Analysis scripts can be requested from the authors.

ORCID

Christopher Hübel D https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1267-8287 Mohamed Abdulkadir D https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6080-257X Moritz Herle D https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3220-5070 Ruth J. F. Loos D https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8532-5087 Gerome Breen D https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2053-1792 Cynthia M. Bulik D https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7772-3264 Nadia Micali D https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5571-2273

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

How to cite this article: Hübel C, Abdulkadir M, Herle M, et al. One size does not fit all. Genomics differentiates among anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder. *Int J Eat Disord*. 2021;54:785–793. https://doi.org/10.1002/ eat.23481