Comparing Dimensional Models Assessing Personality Traits and Personlity Pathology Among Adult ADHD and Borderline Personality Disorder

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Abstract

Objective:
This pilot study was a comparison of dimensional models assessing personality traits and personality pathology in a clinical sample of adults diagnosed with ADHD and adults diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD), and a nonclinical control sample of healthy adults.

Method:
Personality traits were assessed using the NEO–Personality Inventory–Revised (NEO–PI–R) and dimensional personality pathology with the Dimensional Assessment of Personality Pathology–Basic Questionnaire (DAPP–BQ).

Results:
Adults with ADHD and BPD produced higher Emotional Dysregulation/Neuroticism and Dissocial Behavior scores than controls. For the Extraversion/Inhibitedness scale, adults with BPD produced significantly lower scores than adults with ADHD and controls. On the Conscientiousness/Compulsivity domains, Conscientiousness scores were lower for both disorders, whereas low Compulsivity values were specific to adult ADHD.

Conclusion:
Our results suggest that patients with adult ADHD and BPD have distinguishable profiles of personality traits and personality pathology.