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CLINICAL RISK FACTORS FOR INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE IN ADULTHOOD IN SUICIDE ATTEMPTERS

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Introduction: Early environmental risk factors have a role in the development of violent behaviour in adulthood.

Aims: The aim of the study was to assess the impact of childhood trauma, expressed violent behaviour as a child, co morbid personality disorder and substance abuse on self reported interpersonal violence as an adult in suicide attempters.

Methods: A total of 161 suicide attempters were diagnosed with SCID I and II and assessed with the Karolinska Interpersonal Violence Scale (KIVS) measuring exposure to violence and expressed violent behaviour in childhood (between 6-14 years of age) and during adult life (15 years or older). A standard linear regression analyses was conducted with the two predictive KIVS subscales exposure to violence as a child and expressed violent behaviour as a child, Axis 1 mood and anxiety disorder diagnosis, co morbid substance abuse diagnosis, co morbid personality disorder diagnosis, age and gender as predictors of expressed interpersonal violence as an adult.

Results: The regression model was significant with adjusted R square 0.22, F ratio 7.2, DF=7, p< 0.0001. Expressed violent behaviour as a child and personality disorder were significant predictors of expressed interpersonal violence as an adult. Broken down by gender expressed violent behaviour as a child was a significant predictor of violence as an adult in both men and women, whereas exposure to violence as a child and personality disorder predicted violence as an adult only in men. **Conclusions:** It is important to take into account expressed violent behaviour in childhood in violence risk assessments.

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