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## Transgenerational Experiences of Childhood Adversities in the Development of Adolescent Borderline Personality Disorder

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**Introduction:** Previous research revealed substantial relations between the experience of childhood adversities and the development of borderline personality disorders (BPD) in adulthood. However, research about antecedents of adolescent BPD is still in its beginnings. Moreover, there is an ongoing controversy regarding transgenerational effects of childhood adversities and potential mediators.

**Objectives:** We aim to investigate transgenerational effects of parental childhood experiences on the development of adolescent BPD within the next generation. Hereby, we are focusing on the investigation of differential effects of maternal and paternal experiences of childhood adversities on adolescent BPD and on underlying mechanisms.

**Methods:** We consecutively recruited 91 female inpatients ( $M_{\text{age}} = 15.6$  years) from the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University Hospital Heidelberg, as well as 87 mothers and 59 fathers. Childhood adversities were assessed for parents and adolescents with the German Childhood Experiences of Care and Abuse Questionnaire, adolescent BPD by means of structured clinical interviews (SKID II).

**Results:** Our results are in favor of a transgenerational effect of parental childhood adversities on the development of adolescent BPD. This effect turned out to be stronger for paternal than for maternal childhood adversities. Moreover, paternal childhood adversities revealed to be related to experiences of childhood adversities within the next generation.

**Conclusions:** Our results underline the importance of taking the family environment into consideration when developing prevention and treatment programs for adolescent BPD.