

EV0459

Reconceptualization of recovery from anorexia nervosa: Patients' perspective

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Outcome research has not found a consistent definition of recovery from anorexia nervosa by consensus of experts, or by empirical validation. Therefore, medical criterion of recovery varies between studies and results are not comparable. This poster refers to a study of 44 participants treated for anorexia nervosa and who believe they have recovered. The purpose of this study is to reconceptualize recovery from patients' perspective. The Free Association about Recovery – Questionnaire (FAR-Q) is a new tool by which to explore and understand the anorexic's account of recovery. Content analysis reveals four subjective definitions of recovery: (1). Return to the social normality; (2). Cohabit with eating disorder; (3). Self-acceptance; (4). Rebirth. This study assesses patients' stages of recovery process and gives recommendations to health professionals.

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EV0460

Long-standing Pica with compulsive features in a woman with iron and zinc deficiency

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Introduction Pica is the consumption of non-nutritive substances, which is inappropriate to the individual's cultural practices or developmental level. It is frequently associated with mental retardation, and occasionally observed in pregnant women and children.

Objectives We describe a case of long-standing pica in a woman with no co-morbid psychiatric condition.

Case Madam NA is a 27-year old married Malay housewife, with 4 sons and 4 miscarriages. Her mother had addiction problems. She sought help from the Eating Disorders Clinic, Singapore General Hospital, for uncontrollably eating uncooked rice. This started at age 8, when she was left alone at home with no food. Since then, she had been eating up to 10 cups of raw rice daily. She was unable to leave the house without carrying a bag of raw rice; if she forgot, she would feel intense discomfort and would need to return to get the rice. She persisted in eating raw rice despite it causing friction in her marriage. When she tried to stop, she would get irritable and crave it. This behavior only ceased during her pregnancies but would restart soon after delivery. There was no other psychiatric history. Blood investigations showed anemia, with iron and zinc deficiency, as well as newly diagnosed Grave's disease. After iron and zinc supplementation, her raw rice intake decreased substantially.

Conclusions We report an unusual case of long-standing pica with compulsive features in a young woman with no psychiatric co-morbidity, which improved during pregnancy and with iron and zinc supplementation.

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EV0461

Eating disorders in Malays in Singapore

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Introduction The prevalence of eating disorders has been increasing in the Asian countries. Malays in Singapore are at the crossroads because they are largely traditional in practice and almost all are Muslim, but are exposed to western culture. Studies found that Malays at increased risk of eating disorders but yet those that present for treatment are very small, and this study aims to study Malays with eating disorders to unveil this contradiction.

Methods All Malay patients presenting to Singapore General Hospital (SGH), which hosts the only specialized eating disorder programme in Singapore, between 2003 and 2014 were identified and medical records studied retrospectively.

Results Malays constitute only 42 out of 1340 patients treated in the same period. The mean age at presentation is 18.81 years (SD=5.54) and the majority are students (78.6%). A total of 92.9% are single. There are more cases of bulimia nervosa than anorexia nervosa (45.2% vs. 26.2%). In total, 54.8% have psychiatric comorbidities, the most common is depression (31.0%), 38.1% have a history of deliberate self-harm and 21.4% attempted suicide. A total of 52.4% reported teasing as a trigger, while 16.7% were triggered by being overweight.

Discussion There is only a small number of Malays that presented. Fasting is commonly which may be confused with restriction. Other factors could be lack of awareness. The higher prevalence of bulimia nervosa suggests that purging is recognized as abnormal. High prevalence of co-morbidities suggests that family members recognize co-morbidities better. Outreach programs for Malay will help increase awareness.

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Use of atomoxetine in eating disorders. A case report

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Introduction Eating disorders (EDs) are an important public health problem and not all patients respond adequately to psychotherapy. In the last decade, researchers report a significant comorbidity of EDs and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), especially binge eating disorder and bulimia nervosa. Some studies postulate the hypothesis of a common neurobiological substrate, such as noradrenergic pathways among others.

Objectives To revise the possible use of atomoxetine, a highly selective noradrenergic reuptake inhibitor, for the treatment of EDs.

Methods We describe the effect of atomoxetine in a young woman with purging disorder and history of ADHD in childhood added to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

Results patient had selective/restrictive eating behaviours, daily purges and occasional binges for last five years. At age 14 she was diagnosed with ADHD by impulsivity/aggressiveness and poor school performance, but she did not take drugs and left medical consultations. She came to our specific unit of EDs in november-2015. Her BMI was 24.88 kg/m². We initiated CBT and atomoxetine (80mg/day). In this first year of treatment binges and purges have disappeared and exposure to new foods and body image have improved partially. We found clear improvement in mood, motivation and attention/concentration in relation with introduction of atomoxetine. These facts have positive impact on the clinical evolution. Her current BMI is 26.90 kg/m².

Conclusions Identify comorbid ADHD to assess the use of specific drugs for this disorder could be beneficial in the treatment and prognosis of EDs. However, more studies are needed to determine effectiveness, particularly of non-stimulant drugs.

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EV0463

Theory of mind in binge eating disorder: an exploratory study

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Introduction to date, studies on the relationship between Theory of Mind (ToM) and eating disorders (ED) have never considered binge eating disorder (BED).

Aims a) to assess ToM abilities in a sample of patients suffering from BED comparing them with healthy controls; b) to evaluate the influence of several variables (demographic, clinical and neuropsychological dimensions, attachment styles, traumatic events, comorbid Axis I and II disorders) on ToM abilities.

Methods we assessed ToM in a sample of 20 BED patients and 22 women from the general population using the Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test (RMET) and the Faux Pas Test (FPT).

Results regarding the first aim, the comparison between groups showed that the clinical group scored significantly lower than the control group on the RMET as well as on FPT. Regarding the second aim, two different multiple regression models were performed: one for the RMET and one for the FPT. Both of them led to significant results. When modeling RMET score, it emerged that age and Binge Eating Scale significantly reduce the score, while vocabulary and drive for thinness have a positive effect ($r^2 = 0.62$). When modeling FPT score, we found that central coherence and binge eating significantly reduce the total score ($r^2 = 0.33$).

Conclusions our study begins to shed light on the relationship between ToM and BED; in particular, it suggests that BED patients have lower mentalization skills than healthy controls and ToM abilities are partially influenced by clinical variables related to eating pathology.

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EV0464

Some stay the same: Personality change after treatment for eating disorder

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Introduction Strong evidence establishes a close relationship between personality traits and mental illness; where personality can be said to influence the likelihood, severity and longevity of a mental disorder. Personality is usually seen as fixed, yet there is a growing body of evidence for the changeability of personality, though this has rarely been studied in relation to mental disorders.

Objective To study the longitudinal interplay between personality and eating disorders (EDs), particularly the associations between personality, recovery and treatment modality.

Aims To investigate changes in the five domains and thirty lower-level facets of personality in non-underweight EDs, and its associations to intervention and outcome.

Methods Two hundred and nine adults with EDs enrolled either in a four-month multimodal psychodynamic group-therapy (DAY) or four-six month internet-based supported cognitive behavioural therapy (iCBT). ED diagnosis and personality (by the five-factor model) were assessed at baseline, termination and 6-month follow up. Structural equation modeling was used to analyze domain-level development, and reliable change (RCI) for facet-level development.

Results Remission rate at end of treatment was 71% in DAY and 55% in iCBT. Over time, Neuroticism decreased significantly while Extraversion, Openness and Conscientiousness increased ($P < 0.01$). Treatment and outcome had little influence on domain-level change. At the facet-level, 28% of patients reliably changed in any given facet, and there were several differences in pattern based on treatment and outcome.

Conclusions This study lends support for the possibility of personality change and its relevance for recovery from EDs.

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Run for it: Compulsive exercise in adolescents with eating disorders – a nationwide longitudinal study

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Introduction Rigorous exercise to control weight and/or shape and to avoid negative affect has been proposed as significant in the etiology, development and maintenance of eating disorders (EDs), resulting in more severe and enduring pathology. However, few studies have investigated compulsive exercise (CE) among adolescents with EDs.

Objective To study the longitudinal relationship between EDs and CE in adolescents.

Aims to investigate if adolescent ED patients show a similar relation between EDs and CE as previous research has found in adults.

Methods A total of 3116 girls and 139 boys from a nationwide clinical EDs database were investigated on CE prevalence and frequency in relation to ED diagnosis, psychiatric symptoms, associated features and outcome. Denial of illness in self-ratings was adjusted for.