

The Arabic version of defense style questionnaire-40 : II- Defense style in major depressive disorder

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The aim of this work was to investigate whether the patients with major depressive disorder use a defense style different from that of the normal subjects. Twenty-eight patients with major depressive disorder and 27 age and sex matched normal subjects completed the Arabic version of DSQ-40. The results showed that patients tended to use less mature defenses (anticipation, suppression, humor and sublimation) than normal subjects ; while, they use more immature defenses (projection, passive aggression, devaluation, autistic fantasy and somatization). Reaction formation, a neurotic defense, was also higher in the depressive group. The significance of the findings to the psychopathology of depression, especially in terms of cognitive theories and the implications for psychotherapy were considered. The study recommended to investigate the defense style related to other axis-I diagnosis and its correlation with symptom patterns.