

Psychological profile and impulsivity levels of borderline personality disorder and major depressive disorder Egyptian females

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Previous studies of neuropsychological performance in borderline personality disorder (BPD) have exhibited mixed results. The high rate of co-occurring major depressive disorder (MDD) in BPD makes it difficult to specify whether neuropsychological deficits in BPD predominantly reflect co-occurring MDD or unique aspects of their psychopathology. Fifteen females with borderline personality disorder (BPD), 15 females with major depressive disorder (MDD) and 15 females with borderline personality disorder and concurrent major depressive disorder (BPD-MDD) as regard their neuropsychological performances using the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-III), Wechsler Memory Scale (WAIS-R), and the Trail Making Test, and their impulsivity using Eysenck impulsiveness questionnaire (IVE-7).

General intellectual deficits did not differ between the MDD and BPD-MDD group ; however, the BPD group performed better than the other two groups and exhibited higher levels of impulsivity. Cognitive deficits found in patients with BPD-MDD may reflect the effect of depression more than the borderline personality per se.

Therefore, there is a need for future experimental studies of the effects of mood on cognitive function to determine whether mood dysregulation, rather than core depressive symptoms, underlie cognition impairments in BPD.