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EXPRESSED EMOTION AND PATIENT PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN EATING DISORDERS

L. Rodríguez Santos, F.J. Vaz Leal, M.I. Ramos Fuentes, M.J. Cardoso Moreno, N. Fernández Sánchez

Psychiatry, University of Extremadura, Badajoz, Spain

Objectives: To isolate clinical predictors of Expressed Emotion (EE) in relatives of patients with eating disorders.

Methods: Forty-three families of patients with anorexia and bulimia nervosa were assessed using the Camberwell Family Inventory (CFI). In addition, the eating symptoms, the general psychopathology and the personality of the patients was assessed using the Eating Disorders Inventory (EDI-II), the Symptom Checklist (SCL-90-R) and the Structured Clinical Interview for the Diagnosis of Axis II DSM-IV Disorders (SCID-II). Binary logistic regression methods (Forward Wald) were used for statistical analysis.

Results: Maturity fear, depressive features and anxiety of patients were predictors of parental EE level.

Conclusion: Althoug more clinical research is needed, the results of our study suggest that the severity of the symptomathology and some personality features of the patients with eating disorders can influence the EE observed in their relatives.