

interact with stressful life events in relation to potential endophenotypes for affective disorders.

**Method:** In a cross-sectional high-risk study, healthy monozygotic (MZ) and dizygotic (DZ) twins with (high-risk twins) and without (low-risk twins) a co-twin history of affective disorder were identified through nation wide registers.

**Results:** No differences were found between the 115 high- and 81 low-risk twins with respect to the distribution of the alleles of the serotonin transporter gene. However, the genotype interacted significantly with recent stressful life events on subclinical depressive symptoms and neuroticism score. No relation was found between 5-HTTLPR genotype and salivary cortisol.

**Conclusion:** The distribution of the alleles of the serotonin transporter gene was not associated with a genetic predisposition for affective disorder. The presence of the short allele of the 5-HTTLPR gene and the experience of recent stressful life events seems to be associated with a higher level of subclinical depressive symptoms and higher neuroticism score.

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## Poster Session I: Eating Disorders

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### P0329

Bulimia among female students in Marrakesh

I. Adali, F. Manoudi, L. Essabiri, R. Chagh, S. Bououda, S. Boutabia, F. Asri, I. Tazi. *Academic Unit of Psychiatry Faculty of Medicine, Marrakech, Morocco*

**Introduction:** Bulimia is a public health problem, there are no studies assessing this disorder in the university environment in our country. The aim of the work was to determine the prevalence of bulimia and unusual eating behaviour, to assess their sociocultural and physical profile, and to evaluate the depression as psychiatric comorbidity.

**Population and Methods:** We carried out an epidemiology's investigation among 480 female's students in four universities and one higher education school, using a questionnaire which allows the study of sociodemographic and physical characteristics (BMI), the study of the bulimia (BITE) and the assessment of depression (Beck score).

**Results:** 4% of students had bulimia and 32.2% had an unusual eating behavior. 21.05% had a severe bulimia. The appetite suppressant was the most used ways to lose weight in the two groups and urban origin was predominant among the two groups. The lifestyle had no influence on the two groups. The medical school had most of bulimia and unusual eating behavior. Bulimia was predominant in the middle of university studies and the unusual eating behavior was at the beginning and the end of the studies. Bulimic female students were more over weighted and those with unusual eating behavior were more normal stoutness. Depression was common in both of the groups.

**Conclusion:** this study demonstrates that bulimia and unusual eating behavior exist in Marrakech and similar surveys in other towns are necessary to better determine the prevalence of this disorder in our society and seek risk factors.

### P0330

Personality and psychopathological traits in spanish eating disorder males: A comparative study

Z.P. Aguera<sup>1</sup>, A. Nunez-Navarro<sup>2</sup>, I. Krug<sup>1,2</sup>, S. Jimenez-Murcia<sup>1,2</sup>, R. Granero<sup>3</sup>, E. Penelo<sup>3</sup>, A. Karwautz<sup>4</sup>, D. Collier<sup>5</sup>, J. Treasure<sup>5</sup>, F. Fernandez-Aranda<sup>1,2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>*Ciber Fisiopatologia Obesidad Y Nutricion (CIBEROBN), Instituto Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain* <sup>2</sup>*Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital of Bellvitge, Barcelona, Spain* <sup>3</sup>*Methodology Department, University Autonoma of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain* <sup>4</sup>*University Clinic of Neuropsychiatry of Childhood and Adolescence, Vienna, Austria* <sup>5</sup>*Eating Disorders Unit and SGDP Research Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK*

**Objective:** To explore gender differences on personality and clinical features in patients with eating disorders (ED) and a healthy control sample.

**Methods:** 60 ED males and 60 ED females, consecutively admitted to our Hospital and diagnosed according to DSM-IV-R criteria, were matched for age and diagnosis. A comparison group of 120 non clinical people (60 males, 60 females) were also collected. Measures: TCI-R, SCL-90-R, EDI-2.

**Results:** Female ED patients scored significantly higher than males on Drive for Thinness, Body Dissatisfaction, Interoceptive Awareness and total EDI ( $p < 0.002$ ). However, these differences were not significant when compared with controls. ED women exhibited higher SCL-90-R Somatization, Interpersonal Sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, GSI, PSDI and PST scores ( $p < 0.002$ ). Regarding personality traits, high Harm Avoidance, Persistence, Cooperativeness ( $p < 0.018$ ) and low Self-Directedness ( $p = 0.001$ ) were associated with an ED diagnosis in males. Significant differences across ED subdiagnoses were also observed. Lifetime obesity was significantly associated with ED in males ( $p = 0.008$ ). However, when specific ED diagnosis was entered, the gender effect of obesity disappeared ( $p = 0.081$ ).

**Conclusions:** Although gender specific differences in clinical and psychopathological features across ED patients have been observed, there are important similarities in current ED features between ED males and females, suggesting that, in spite of having some gender-specific associated traits, EDs are not different with regard to gender. These data encourage our continued efforts toward using similar strategies to detect and treat EDs among men and women.

### P0331

Levels of cytokines (TNF- $\alpha$  & IL-6) and personality in patients with eating disorders

J. Ahrén-Moonga<sup>1,2,3</sup>, N. von Blixen<sup>1</sup>, J. Ronnelid<sup>4</sup>, B. af Klinteberg<sup>2,3,5</sup>. <sup>1</sup>*Department of Neuroscience, Psychiatry, Uppsala University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden* <sup>2</sup>*Department of Woman and Child Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden* <sup>3</sup>*CHES – Centre for Health Equity Studies, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden* <sup>4</sup>*Unit of Clinical Immunology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden* <sup>5</sup>*Department of Psychology, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden*

**Background:** The underlying pathophysiology of Eating Disorders (EDs) is dependent on complex interactions between psychological and neuroendocrine factors. Pro-inflammatory cytokines are known to decrease food intake and increase risk of depression. Psychological