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MOOD SPECTRUM SYMPTOMS AND ADULT SEPARATION ANXIETY IN PATIENTS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND/OR COMPLICATED GRIEF

C. Carmassi, C. Socci, I. Pergentini, M. Corsi, E. Massimetti, G. Perugi, L. Dell'Osso

Department of Psychiatry, Neurobiology, Pharmacology and Biotechnologies, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Introduction: Complicated grief (CG) is currently under consideration for inclusion in DSM-V and a major issue is whether it can be differentiated from major depression (MDD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Objectives: There is evidence on the role of childhood but not separation anxiety as a significant risk factor for CG, and no study compared CG and PTSD patients with respect to these features.

Aims: To compare adult separation anxiety in patients with PTSD versus CG or both conditions. Further, to investigate the possible impact of mood spectrum symptoms in the same samples.

Methods: A total sample of 116 patients (66 PTSD, 22 CG and 28 with CG+PTSD) was recruited. Assessments included: the SCID-I/P, the Inventory of Complicated Grief (ICG), the Adult Separation Anxiety Questionnaire (ASA-27), the Work and Social Adjustment Scale (WSAS) and the Mood Spectrum-Self Report (MOODS-SR) lifetime version.

Results: CG was strongly associated with female gender (8:1). MDD comorbidity was more common among patients with CG while bipolar disorder was highest among those with PTSD+CG. Patients with both CG and PTSD reported significantly higher ASA\_27 ( $p=0.008$ ) scores than patients with either CG or PTSD alone. Patients with both diagnoses or PTSD alone reported significantly ( $p=0.02$ ) higher scores on the manic component of the MOODS-SR. No significant differences were reported in the WSAS scores.

Conclusions: Our results support differences between CG and PTSD, important to consideration of including CG as a new disorder in DSM-V.