to unpleasant stimuli than the control participants. In fact, the BPD participants had significantly lower skin conductance responses and showed an absence of the fear-potentiated startle response, suggesting a general state of underarousal. On the emotion regulation task, both groups showed similar startle responses when instructed to maintain or suppress their emotions. These results do not support current theories of emotion dysregulation in BPD, suggesting instead that those with BPD are hyporesponsive to affective stimuli.

An MRI study of pituitary volume and suicidal behaviour in adolescents with first-presentation borderline personality disorder

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There has been a lack of research examining the association between hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis function and suicidal behaviour in patients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD), despite the established relationship between BPD and suicide. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between pituitary gland volume (PGV) and number of suicidal behaviours in adolescent patients with first-presentation BPD. The main findings indicate that age, internalizing problems and number of suicidal behaviours are significant predictors of PGV in first-presentation BPD. The larger PGV in those with a higher number of suicidal behaviours might reflect greater activation of the HPA axis by the actual act of self-harm or increased activation of the stress response by factors that also lead to suicidal behaviour, such as life events. The study points to the need to explore other suicide parameters (e.g., intent, medical threat) together with direct neuroendocrine measures in larger samples of patients with BPD.

Interpersonal functioning in borderline personality disorder: the role of attachment, self-schema and social cognition

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Background: The study investigated the clinical picture of young people with borderline personality disorder (BPD) traits by comparing them with a group of young people with major depressive disorder (MDD) on a set of variables that target core features of BPD.