

Mindful Continuing Education

How Child Maltreatment Impacts Borderline Personality Disorder

Introduction

1. Each of the following is an accurate statement about Borderline Personality Disorder EXCEPT:

- A. Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a serious form of psychopathology characterized by a complex constellation of social, cognitive, emotional and behavioral dysregulation, and features include affective instability and dysregulation, impulsivity, dysfunctional interpersonal relationships and identity problems
 - B. In addition to its concerning and extensive symptomatology, the disorder also is notably prevalent in severely impaired populations requiring intensive or inpatient psychiatric care
 - C. While Paranoid Personality Disorder is the most common Axis II disorder seen in inpatient psychiatric settings, BPD is the second most common
 - D. Research indicates that child maltreatment is a serious risk factor for the development of BPD
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2. One limitation when considering maltreatment as a risk factor in the development of personality pathology is that researchers too often ignore the myriad differences in individual maltreatment experiences.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Results

3. In a study that compared borderline traits in maltreated versus non-maltreated children, maltreated children reported significantly higher levels of borderline features in two out of four sub-scales of borderline traits.

- A. True
 - B. False
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BPFS-C Sum Score by Maltreatment Subtype

4. While physically abused children had significantly higher borderline feature scores than the comparison group, emotionally maltreated and sexually abused children did not differ from non-maltreated children with respect to overall borderline features.

- A. True**
 - B. False**
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Discussion

5. Borderline Personality Disorder subtypes include affective instability, identity problems, negative relationships and:

- A. Withdrawal**
 - B. Risk-taking**
 - C. Lack of empathy**
 - D. Self-harm**
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6. Which of the following is NOT an accurate statement about study findings pertaining to maltreatment chronicity in the development of borderline symptoms?

- A. The number of developmental periods in which maltreatment occurred significantly predicted borderline feature scores**
 - B. Chronic maltreatment has been shown to impact factors key to the successful development of healthy identity features such as values, passions, and strengths**
 - C. Study findings are consistent with prior research showing that chronicity of maltreatment is associated with increases in both externalizing and internalizing problems**
 - D. The decreased prosocial behavior seen in chronically maltreated children may be a precipitant of relational challenges and higher scores on the Negative Relationships subscale**
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7. Study results showed higher borderline feature scores for males than females in the affective instability and negative relationship subtypes.

- A. True**
 - B. False**
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8. Researchers suggest that individual borderline features and environmental considerations such as maltreatment should be measured in concert with other systems to fully understand the developmental phenomena being examined.

- A. True**

B. False

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