

# 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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