

Research Paper

Comparison of Psychopathology and Personality Traits in Three Groups of Mothers of Children With Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Healthy Group



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ABSTRACT

Objectives The aim of the study was to compare personality traits and psychopathology in three groups of mothers of children with Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and healthy group.

Methods This research was designed as a cross-sectional descriptive study. Participants were comprised of 93 mothers (35 in anxiety group, 27 in obsessive group, and 31 in healthy group) which were selected by available sampling. Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID-I) and NEO Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI-60) were administrated to measure the study variables.

Results Results indicated that there is a significant difference ($P < 0.001$) in the psychopathology of mothers under anxiety, obsession and healthy groups; however, this significant difference was not found between mothers in anxiety and obsession groups. Results also indicated a significant difference in mean scores of mothers in healthy group and mothers in anxiety and obsession groups especially neuroticism and openness to experience traits. Analysis of variance post hoc test showed that extraversion and openness to experience traits were significantly different in mothers of children with obsessive-compulsive disorder as compared to mothers of children with anxiety disorders and healthy group.

Conclusion With reference to, psychopathology and neuroticism trait, findings showed that significant difference between mothers in anxiety and obsession group and mothers in healthy group. Thus, results of this study marked that considering parent's psychopathology in prevention and treatment of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in children may be of great importance.

Key words:

Mothers, Children, Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Psychopathology, Personality

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

A

nxiety disorders are a group of most common and disabling mental disorders in children and adolescents. More than 10%

of this age category suffer from anxiety disorders during their development [1, 2]. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders–fifth edition (DSM-5) has separated Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) from the category of anxiety disorders and considered it as a distinct category [5]. Genetic factors have significant importance in development and persistence of anxiety. Correlation between

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psychiatric disorders in parents and children has been a main research area in child psychopathology, but the direct impact of different mental disorders in mothers on their children is not clear and yet to be identified [13]. Theoretical models of anxiety disorders in children emphasized the mutual relationship between parent and child under stressful environment [15, 16]. This study aims to compare personality traits and psychopathology in three groups of mothers of children with Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and healthy group.

2. Method

This research was a cross-sectional descriptive study. Study population was mothers of children with Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and healthy group. Mothers were interviewed with Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID-I) and completed NEO Five-Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI-60). Sample size of 93 mothers (35 in anxiety group, 27 in obsessive group and 31 in healthy group) were selected, using available sampling.

3. Results

According to Figure 1, 40% mothers of children with anxiety disorders were diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, 17.4% diagnosed with depression and 20% diagnosed with comorbid anxiety and depression. In mothers of children with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, 25.9%

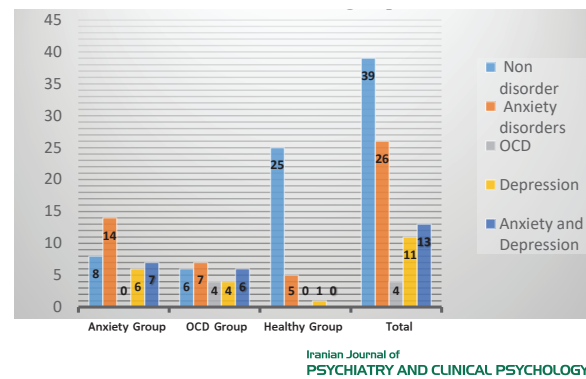


Figure 1. The frequency of psychopathology in mothers of research groups

had diagnosis of anxiety, 14.8% obsession, 14.8% depression and 22.25% comorbid anxiety and depression. Finally, in mothers of children in normal healthy group, diagnosis rate of anxiety disorders and depression was 16.2% and 3.2%, respectively.

Results of multivariate analysis of variance showed significant statistical difference in neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience between three groups of mothers (Table 1). The value of Chi-Square and significance level of $P < 0.001$ indicate that there is a prominent difference between three groups in psychopathology of mothers and mean scores of all the groups indicate that psychopathology of mothers of children with anxiety and obsession is more than healthy group significantly (Table 2).

Table 1. Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) of personality traits in three groups of mothers

Index	Mean Square	df	F	Sig.	Effect Size
Neuroticism	242.43	2-90	4.74	0.011	0.77
Extraversion	186.19	2-90	3.82	0.026	0.68
Openness to experience	120.56	2-90	5.72	0.005	0.85
Agreeableness	22.10	2-90	0.71	0.49	0.16
Conscientiousness	20.24	2-90	0.59	0.55	0.14

Table 2. Nonparametric Kruskal Wallis Test to compare psychopathology in three groups of mothers

Groups	N	Mean Rank	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Anxiety group	35	55.8	28.5	2	0.001
OCD group	27	58.5			
Healthy group	31	27.02			

4. Discussion

Findings indicate that the mean scores of the healthy group in neuroticism trait were lesser than anxiety and obsession group and the mean scores of obsession group in extraversion and openness to experience traits was lesser than anxiety and healthy group. With regards to psychopathology of mothers, results indicate that there is no significant difference in anxiety and obsession group; however, psychopathology in these two groups was significantly greater than healthy group. Despite important role of genetic heritability in children anxiety, which explain a considerable amount (at least one third) of variance, effect mechanisms of that are yet to be identified properly [18, 28]. Explaining this findings, along with emphasis on the role of inheritance as a predisposing factor in development of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in children, potential role of parent psychopathology related mediator variables such as caregiver stress, family structure malfunction, parent's emotional dysregulation towards the child, dysfunctional modeling and reinforcement of maladjusted strategies (e.g. avoidance) could be mentioned [31, 33]. Results of this study marked that considering parent's psychopathology in prevention and treatment of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in children may be of great importance.

Ethical Considerations

Compliance with ethical guidelines

In this research all ethical considerations such as informed consent, preservation of anonymity and secrecy, voluntary participation in the interview and assessment were observed. The project was approved by research ethics committee of the Iran University of Medical Science.

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Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest is reported for any of the contributing authors.

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