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Relationship Between Aversive Childhood Experiences, Mood Disorders, and Comorbidity

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Abstract

Child aversive experiences (ACEs), such as maltreatment and caretaker dysfunction, are widely supported by prior research and theories to have long-lasting physical and psychological effects, including mood disorders, attachment difficulties, and impaired socialization abilities. However, less is known about the impact of various types of ACEs on mood disorders and their role in contributing to comorbidity. Identifying these can guide the development of targeted interventions and therapies and improve early screening efforts, enabling timely support for at-risk individuals. This study utilizes psychiatric data to examine the relationship between ACEs and mood disorders, as well as the impact of having comorbidity and ACEs on the development of other psychiatric comorbidities using logistic regression models. The analyses did not yield statistically significant results, highlighting critical limitations in the dataset, but more importantly, conflicting theories such as resiliency. These findings underscore the challenges of studying the causal relationship between psychological disorders and environmental impact and identifying the theories contributing to it.

Keywords: child aversive experiences (ACEs); comorbidity; logistical regression model; mood disorders; psychology