Abstract

Objective: The present study explored the utility of emotional dysregulation and family invalidation in predicting BPD features among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. Method: Participants, 971 male and 1203 female adolescents from 7 secondary schools in Hong Kong, completed measures assessing family invalidation and general BPD features, including mood dysregulation, fear of abandonment, unstable relationship with parents and peers, self-mutilation, suicidal ideation and attempt, and identity disturbances. Results: Female adolescents scored significantly higher on most BPD features than male adolescents. Sequential regression analyses showed significant interaction effects between dysregulated emotion and invalidated family environment in predicting self-destructive tendency. Path analyses suggested both emotional dysregulation and family invalidation have direct effects on identity disturbances. They also have direct and indirect effects on interpersonal relationship problems, but no indirect effect on self-destructive tendency. Discussion: Findings are discussed in relation to the Biopsychosocial model which proposes the interaction between emotional dysregulation and family invalidation in the development of BPD.