autism in both males and females, indicating that a gender-specific risk score may be a useful addition to early identification efforts.

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Su-S-003

Prevalence of eating disorders: A comparative study between France, the U.S.A. and Canada

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Rationale.– Research into the prevalence of eating disorders (EDs) in different societies or different cultures will help to plan treatment and prevention strategies targeted to the specific needs of each population, as well as to formulate hypotheses regarding the socio-environmental factors which contribute to their etiology. The objectives of the current study were to determine the prevalence of full- and partial-syndromes of EDs in adolescents from three Western countries thought to differ in terms of body mass index (BMI), standards for physical health and body image, peer and media influences, beliefs and habits regarding food and eating.

Method.– The study participants were male and female high school students in France (n = 1031), the U.S.A. (n = 1573), and Canada (n = 3033), who completed a battery of self-report questionnaires on attitudes and behaviours regarding weight and eating, and other aspects of their lifestyle (Research on Eating and Adolescent Lifestyle–REAL study). BMI categories were determined according to the International Obesity Task Force references, and DSM-IV criteria were used to define EDs.

Results.– Across the study groups, the prevalence of anorexia nervosa ranged from 0 to 0.5% (partial syndrome, 0.4% to 3.9%) and that of bulimia nervosa from 0.2% to 1.8% (partial syndrome, 1.9% to 7.5%). The usual predominance of females was seen, but there were no consistent differences between countries. We will investigate similarities and differences in socio-cultural and other environmental factors in boys and girls from the three countries, and their links with prevalence and features of EDs, in order to derive culturally valid prevention strategies.

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Su-S-004

Eating attitudes and patterns in French and U.S. adolescents with and without eating disorders

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French and U.S. adults differ in terms of attitudes and patterns regarding food and eating. It is unknown whether adolescents from these two countries differ as well. While French adults, adolescents and children are lower in weight compared to similar U.S. groups, differences in eating disorders between the two countries are unknown. Although correlations between eating habits/attitudes and weight are demonstrated widely in the literature, the relationship between eating habits/attitudes and eating disorder is unclear. The authors of this project explored possible relationships between every day eating style, cultural differences in eating and eating disorder. French (n = 1073) and U.S. (n = 1019) adolescents responded to questionnaires about eating attitudes/patterns and eating disorder symptoms. Results of the study will be presented and discussed.

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Su-S-004-bis

Coping in adolescents: A mediator between stress and disordered eating

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The growth in the number of adolescents reporting disordered eating patterns is alarming and underpins the need to better understand the etiological factors associated with eating disorder (ED) symptomatology. Most theoretical models of developmental psychopathology have included both stress and coping as major etiological factors involved in the onset of eating pathology, but to date, little research has been dedicated to testing these theories. The objective of the current study was to investigate the role of coping as a mediator in the relationship between stress and eating disorder symptomatology, using a large community based sample of male and female adolescents. Participants in this study consisted of 2262 high school students in grades 7 to 12, included in a larger cross-sectional study titled the Research on Eating and Adolescent Lifestyle–REAL study. Participants completed validated self-report inventories of perceived stress, negative life events, general coping strategy use, and disordered eating symptoms. Two multiple mediator models of coping were analyzed to examine the multidimensional nature of coping separately for the two genders. Results revealed that coping emerged as a significant partial mediator between stress and eating disorder pathology across the two genders. Particularly interesting was that emotion-oriented coping acted as a significant mediator within this relationship, and was significant regardless of gender or type of stress endured. The relevance of these results in understanding adolescent development and the prevention of EDs will be discussed.

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Risk factors for onset and chronicity of eating disorder

Su-S-005

Prognostic factors in the long-term outcome of anorexia nervosa in adolescents

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Introduction.– Little is known about the predictive factors for the long-term outcome of AN in adolescence, specially concerning the impact of comorbidity.

Method.– This study reconstituted a cohort of 181 patients hospitalised for AN (between the ages of 13 and 22), among whom it was possible to evaluate 97 (51%) with regard to their outcome (psychological, eating habits, physical and social condition). Analyses were conducted to test the association between usual predictor of outcome and anxious or depressive disorders (premorbid to AN and lifetime) and the outcome variables.

Results.– The outcomes observed are in line with the data in the literature. Eighty-three percent had suffered at least one anxious or depressive episode during their lifetime, in 50% of the cases before AN onset. Premorbid obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) was a factor for poor prognosis, as was BMI at admission and premenarchal AN. Lifetime anxious and depressive comorbidity had no impact on outcome. Social phobia and agoraphobia affected subjects’ quality of life and accentuated the eating disorder symptoms. The existence of a premorbid depressive disorder had no impact on outcome.

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Is it something different about ADHD in Iceland?

Su-S-006

Modern treatment approaches

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