Eating and weight problems in a community cohort of adolescents

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Eating and weight problems including disordered eating behaviors, eating disorders and obesity are common among adolescents. Our aim is to validate and classify eating and weight problems according to DSM-IV criteria as well as to the proposed DSM-5-criteria for eating disorders in a community sample of adolescents. This study is part of TRAILS, a longitudinal cohort study on mental health and social development from preadolescence into adulthood. The participants (n = 2230) enrolled in the study at age 10–11. At the 4th assessment wave (age 19) the CIDI was completed in 1584 subjects, BMI was assessed at all four waves. A group at high risk for eating disorders was selected for an interview by eating disorder experts aimed at diagnosing DSM-IV and DSM-5 eating disorders. Nearly 20% of adolescents have at least one eating and weight problem. The most common eating disorder diagnoses are “eating disorder not otherwise specified” using DSM-IV criteria, and anorexia nervosa and bingee eating disorder using DSM-5 criteria.

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Purging behaviours at age 16: Prevalence in three community-based international cohorts

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Aims.– To calculate and compare the prevalence of purging behaviours (i.e. vomiting, inappropriate use of laxatives, enemas, water pills) among 16 year old in three community-based cohorts and to investigate comorbid conditions.

Methods.– Prevalence of purging behaviours and their comorbidity was analysed and compared in three community-based cohorts at age 16: Growing Up Today Study [GUTS] (USA); Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children [ALSPAC] (UK) and North Finland Birth Cohort [NFBC85/86] (Finland).

Results.– In ALSPAC 6.3% reported purging. In GUTS, 4% of girls and 0.3% of boys reported purging monthly and 2.3% and 0.2%, respectively, weekly. In NFBC 1.6% reported vomiting occasionally and 0.3% often; 0.6% reported using laxatives often and 0.2% occasionally.

Conclusions.– These preliminary results show a higher prevalence of purging behaviours in the ALSPAC/GUTS cohorts than in NFBC. Possible reasons for these differences, including socio-cultural factors, will be discussed.

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Metabolic and structural connectivity studies using PET and DTI in autism spectrum disorder

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Objective.– Autism is a neurobiological condition with a strong genetic component. Recent diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) studies have indicated that white matter structure is aberrant in autism. To date, very few studies have assessed white matter structure in family members of children with autism. To determine whether white matter structure is aberrant in children with autism and their unaffected siblings compared with controls.

Method.– A sample of 37 children: 13 subjects with autism, 13 of their unaffected siblings, and 9 controls. Controls were age- and intelligence quotient-matched to the unaffected siblings; all groups were age matched. This study was conducted

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