



Criterion Validity of the MSI-BPD-BPD Among Inpatient Adolescents

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Background

Borderline Personality Disorder often emerges during adolescence (Chanen et al. 2008) but may go unrecognized since diagnosing BPD prior to the age of eighteen is discouraged (Chanen, Jovev, et al. .2007). However, BPD traits during adolescence show considerable malleability in young people (Lenzenweger & Castro, 2005) and thus effective screening methods are needed for early diagnosis and intervention. The McLean Screening Instrument for BPD has been used in adults as a measure of BPD and shows moderate (AUC=0.77) predictive power (Patel et al. 2011), however no study to date has examined the predictive power of the MSI in adolescents.

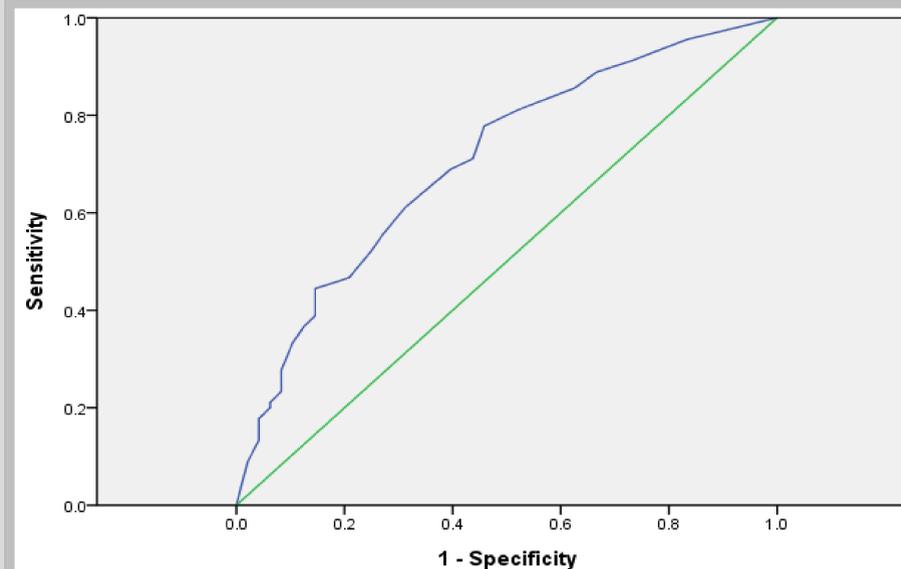
Aims

First, we sought to explore the relation between a continuous self-report measure of BPD (MSI-BPD) and an interview based categorical assessment of DSM-IV BPD (CI-BPD). Second, we aimed to establish the criterion validity of the MSI-BPD in predicting CIBPD diagnosis and establish a clinical cutoff score for the MSI-BPD in predicting CIBPD diagnosis.

Participants

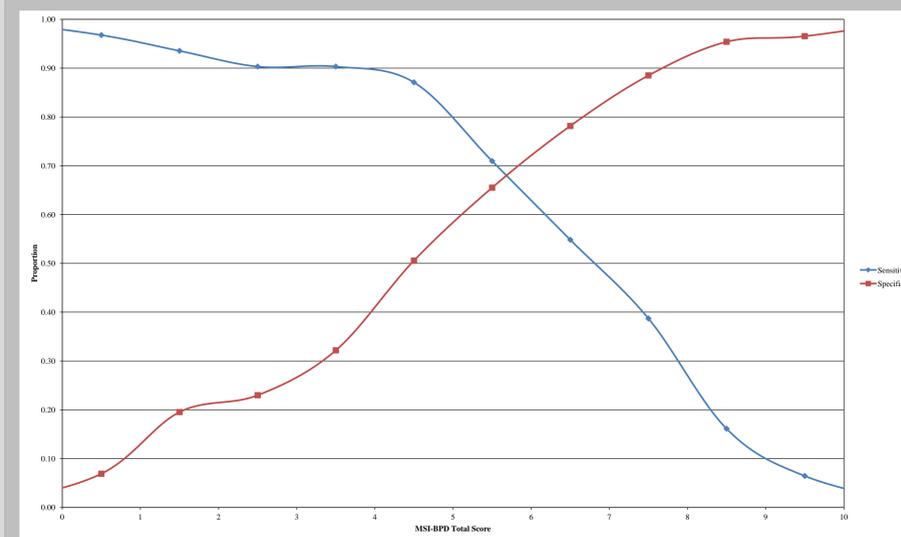
A psychiatric sample was recruited from a county psychiatric hospital. 118 adolescents completed the study protocol including the Childhood Interview for Borderline Personality Disorder (CI-BPD) and the McLean Screening Instrument for Borderline Personality Disorder (MSI-BPD).

Figure 1. ROC curve of MSI-BPD predicting CI-BPD diagnosis



Notes. There were 31 cases positive and 87 cases negative for BPD in this analysis. The AUC is 0.733 (SE = .053, $p < .001$), indicating moderate accuracy in discriminating adolescents who met criteria on the CI-BPD.

Figure 2. Sensitivity and specificity plotted against different cut-off scores on the MSI-BPD in reference to CI-BPD diagnosis



Notes. The optimal cut-off score is determined by the intersection of the sensitivity and specificity lines. In predicting BPD, the optimal cut-off score is 5.5 (Sensitivity = .710, Specificity = .655).

Measures

The McLean Screening Instrument for Borderline Personality Disorder (MSI-BPD; Zanarini et al. 2003) is a 10-item questionnaire in which all questions are written such that positive responses indicate the presence of BPD symptoms. Previous research has found a useful clinical cutoff of seven (Patel, Sharp, & Fonagy, 2011; Zanarini et al. 2003) or more (Chanen et al. 2008) among adults. The Childhood Interview for DSM-IV Borderline Personality Disorder (CI-BPD; Zanarini, 2003) is as a semi-structured interview that assesses the nine DSM-IV criteria of BPD. A diagnosis of BPD is assigned when 5 or more criteria are endorsed.

Results

26.3% (n=31) of the sample met DSM-IV criteria for BPD on the CI-BPD. An independent samples t-test revealed that the BPD group scored significantly higher than the Non-BPD group on the MSI-BPD (BPD $M = 6.45$, $SD = 2.392$; Non-BPD $M = 4.44$, $SD = 2.56$; $t = -3.821$, $p < .001$). Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) analysis with MSI-BPD total score predicting CI-BPD indicated that the MSI-BPD had moderate diagnostic accuracy (AUC=0.733, $p < .001$). Plotting sensitivity and specificity of indicated that the optimal cut-off on the MSI-PBD is 5.5 (Se= .710, Sp=.655).

Conclusions

The MSI-BPD is a moderate predictor of BPD diagnosis suggesting it is a useful screening tool for BPD. Further research with larger and more diverse samples is needed to gain insight into the validity of using MSI as a predictor of BPD within the larger population.

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