Normative Data on the SIAB-EX from the International Multi-Center Genetic Study of Eating Disorders

The Price Foundation Collaborative Group: Manfred M. Fichter[1], Norbert Quadflieg[1], Walter H. Kaye[2], Katherine A. Halmi[3], Allan Kaplan[4], D. Blake Woodside[4], Michael Strober[5], Janet Treasure[6], Chris Berrettini[7], Wade H. Berrettini[7], Katherine M. Plotnicov[2], Christine Pollice[2]

An international multi-center collaborative study (Price Foundation Study) designed to identify genetic factors that may contribute to the pathogenesis of anorexia nervosa and other eating disorders was conducted by Kaye and colleagues (Kaye et al., 2000). Four study sites were in the United States (Pittsburgh, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia) and three were in other countries (Toronto, London, Munich). The core support center was in Pittsburgh.

In the Price Foundation study the SIAB-EX was used to assess psychopathology and the other areas covered by the SIAB. Eating disorder diagnoses were also established by this interview. Due to study purposes, only lifetime ("worst ever") ratings were done. Probands and affected relatives were explored using the SIAB-EX.

All subjects met lifetime DSM-IV criteria for an eating disorder (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, eating disorder not otherwise specified) as determined by the SIAB-EX. Subjects who had met diagnostic criteria for anorexia nervosa had to meet criteria at some time three or more years prior to ascertainment and had never met criteria for BN. Diagnoses were uniformly based on the worst ever rating. Subjects were excluded if they had a lifetime history of organic brain syndromes, dementia, schizophrenic disorders, mental retardation (10-70), any major medical disorder that could affect appetite, body weight, or eating habits (e.g., diabetes), as well as binge eating disorder or obesity. In the study - diverting from the DSM-IV criteria - subjects were not required to meet the criterion of amenorrhea of anorexia nervosa for three or more consecutive months. In the present report, subjects met full criteria for an eating disorder according to DSM-IV. This means that subjects with a lifetime diagnosis of anorexia nervosa also reported having or having had amenorrhea.

From 1)Dept. Psychiatry, Univ. Munich, 80336 Munich, Germany and Klinik Roseneck Center for Behavioral Medicine; 2)Eating Disorders Module, Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic, Univ. Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; 3)New York Presbyterian Hospital-Westchester, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, White Plains, NY, USA; 4)Dpt. Psychiat., The Toronto Hospital, Toronto, Canada; 5)Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, School of Medicine, UCLA, CA, USA; 6)The Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospital, London, United Kingdom; 7)Center of Neurobiology and Behavior, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

A total of 351 (16 male, 335 female) subjects from Pittsburgh (N = 88), New York (N = 73), Los Angeles (N = 64), Philadelphia (N = 11), Toronto (N = 69) and London (N = 46) – excluding Munich as the only non-English speaking center - were included in the normative sample presented here. Mean age at the time of assessment was 28.3 ± 10.2 years, age at onset of the eating disorder was 16.0 ± 3.7 years, and duration of illness 12.4 ± 10.0 years. The body mass index at the time of assessment was 19.6 ± 3.3 and lowest body mass index since puberty was 15.5 ± 2.8.

93 females and 9 males met criteria for AN restricting type, and 117 females and 4 males had AN binge eating/purging type. BN was diagnosed in 38 females and ED-NOS according to the SIAB-algorithm in 87 females and 3 males. In these groups (AN restricting type, AN binge eating/purging type, BN, and ED-NOS, respectively) mean age at the time of assessment was 27.2 ± 10.9, 28.8 ± 9.8, 27.9 ± 8.3, and 29.2 ± 10.5 years, age at onset of the eating disorder was 15.9 ± 3.2, 15.2 ± 3.6, 16.2 ± 3.9, and 16.9 ± 4.1 years, and duration of illness 11.3 ± 10.9, 13.6 ± 9.9, 12.1 ± 7.9, and 12.4 ± 9.9 years. The body mass index at the time of assessment was 18.8 ± 2.5, 18.5 ± 2.6, 22.8 ± 4.5, and 20.7 ± 3.3, and lowest body mass index since puberty was 14.2 ± 2.3, 14.2 ± 2.2, 19.1 ± 1.4, and 16.9 ± 2.2. Many subjects with ED-NOS had type 1 (AN without amenorrhea).

In the accompanying table means and standard deviations of the worst ever symptom expression are listed for the SIAB-EX subscales and all items included in the subscales. Data for the total group and the diagnostic subgroups are provided.

Reference:

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Kaye, W. H., Lilenfeld, , L. R., Berrettini, W. H., Strober, M., Devlin, B., Klump, K. L., Goldman, D., Bulik, C. M., Halmi, K. A., Fichter, M. M., Kaplan, A., Woodside, D. B., Treasure, J., Plotnicov, K. H., Pollice, C., Rao, R. & McConaha, C. W. (2000). A Search for Susceptility Loci For Anorexia Nervosa: Methods and Sample Description. Biological Psychiatry, 47, 794-803