

Abstract

Objective: The present study explored the relationship between pathological interpersonal relationship, self-image disturbances, and borderline personality features among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. **Method:** 971 male and 1203 female adolescents from seven secondary schools in Hong Kong, completed measures assessing invalidating family environment and BPD features, including unstable relationship with parents and peers, identity disturbances, unstable and intense mood, anger and impulse dysregulation, fear of abandonment, self-mutilating behavior, suicidal ideation and attempt. **Results:** Pathological interpersonal relationships were found to be significantly correlated with self-image disturbances and general BPD features. Sequential regression analysis showed both invalidating family environment and unstable relationship with parents and peers predicted the self-image disturbances and various BPD features. Path analysis revealed different result patterns for male and female respondents. For male, results support the basic framework of the model, which postulates that one's invalidating family environment together with the unstable relationships are mediated by self-image disturbances, which in turn leads to the prediction of BPD features. However, results indicated that there is no direct effect of invalidating family environment on the development of self-image disturbances in female. **Discussion:** Findings are discussed in relation to the interaction between invalidating family environment and unstable interpersonal relationships on the development of BPD in Chinese adolescents.