

Abstract

Earlier studies on psychotic-like experiences (PLEs) have mainly suggested them to be expressions of clinical psychotic symptoms which lie on the mild end of the psychosis continuum. Recently, studies have suggested that PLEs also represent a transdiagnostic expression, which subsequently interact with other non-specific symptoms to develop clinical outcomes. The current study aims to examine the patterns of PLEs and their co-occurrence with various mental disorders in a Hong Kong adolescent community sample. The current study is a school-based epidemiologic survey of mental disorders in Hong Kong with adolescents aged 12 to 17. PLEs were measured with Community Assessment of Psychic Experience (CAPE), and psychiatric diagnoses were obtained from Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version 5 (DISC-5). Subtypes of PLEs were characterized by latent profile analysis in order to identify distinct statistical profiles of PLEs in a non-clinical sample. Co-occurrence of PLEs and mental disorders would be examined across the four identified latent profiles. Results found that high PLEs profiles demonstrated co-occurrence with several non-psychotic mental disorders. In particular, high PLEs profiles demonstrated co-occurrence and increased risks of having several anxiety disorders, including generalized anxiety disorder, specific phobia, and panic disorders. It highlighted that PLEs are not only attenuated psychotic symptoms, but also showing co-occurrence in several mental disorders. The directional relationship of PLEs and other mental disorders could be further investigated in future longitudinal studies.