

Correspondence

Psychological Medicine, 46 (2016).
doi:10.1017/S0033291716000982
First published online 10 June 2016

About lost data in cohort studies

Clemmensen *et al.* (2016) address a very important and interesting topic on how hyper-theory-of-mind (HToM) correlates with psychotic experiences. Their findings correlate with previous research (Clemmensen *et al.* 2014). This research provides new information upon HToM, is a prospective design, has a large sample, and the instruments are validated.

The Copenhagen County Child Cohort 2000 includes 6090 children which is a representative sample of the children born in Denmark that year (Olsen *et al.* 2007). One important limitation of the present research is the high loss to follow-up (LFU). Only 1630 subjects were included on the analysis out of 2354 that completed the Development and Well-being Assessment. LFU is a type of selection bias; authors have found that when LFU is large, an impact on results is observed (Kristman *et al.* 2004). The latter is especially important when characteristics of subjects not included in the study differ from the final sample. Jeppesen *et al.* (2015) showed that there are significant differences among the two groups on the variables 'education of mother', 'maternal age' and other variables ($p < 0.05$).

Moreover, in the study by Clemmensen *et al.* (2016), the χ^2 test was used for the bivariate analysis of categorical variables and the association between 'infancy contact problems' and HToM does not meet the assumptions for the uncorrected χ^2 test; the Fisher exact test is a better option in this case (Rosner, 2015). On the other hand, showing unadjusted (as well as adjusted) odds ratios in Table 4 would help a better understanding of the association between the exposure and the outcome.

Acknowledgements

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or non-for-profit sector.

Declaration of Interest

None.

References

- Clemmensen L, van Os, Drukker M, Munkholm A, Rimvall MK, Vaever M, Rask CU, Bartles-Velthuis AA, Skovgaard AM, Jeppesen P (2016). Psychotic experiences and hyper-theory-of-mind in preadolescence – a birth cohort study. *Psychological Medicine* 46, 87–101.
- Clemmensen L, van Os J, Skovgaard A, Vaever M, Blijd-Hoogewys EM, Bartles-Velthuis AA, Jeppesen P (2014). Hyper-theory-of-mind in children with psychotic experiences. *PLOS ONE* 9, e113082.
- Jeppesen P, Clemmensen L, Munkholm A, Rimvall MK, Rask CU, Jorgensen T, Larsen T, Petersen L, van Os J, Skovgaard AM (2015). Psychotic experiences co-occur with sleep problems, negative affect and mental disorders in preadolescence. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, and Allied Disciplines* 56, 558–565.
- Kristman V, Manno M, Coté P (2004). Loss to follow-up in cohort studies: how much is too much? *European Journal of Epidemiology* 19, 751–760.
- Olsen EM, Skovgaard AM, Weile B, Jorgensen T (2007). Risk factors for failure to thrive in infancy depend on the anthropometric definitions used: the Copenhagen County Child Cohort. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* 21, 418–431.
- Rosner B (2015). *Fundamentals of Biostatistics*, 8th edn. Center Learning: Boston, MA.

R. QUIROZ-PORTELLA, C. VALER-MONTOYA AND
G. F. ALVARADO
*School of Medicine, Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas,
Lima, Perú*

Author for correspondence: R. Quiroz-Portella, Avenida Alameda San Marcos, Cuadra 2, Lima 23, Perú.
(Email: quirozp.rafael@gmail.com)