

postulated. Additive gene-gene effects are often assumed but difficult to test in behavioral genetics due to the small explained behavioral variance. Processing of unpleasant stimuli in the amygdala has been associated with a functional polymorphism (val158-met) in the catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) gene and independently with a functional polymorphism in the regulatory region of the serotonin transporter (5-HTT) gene. 5-HTT function may also be affected by a recently detected A/G exchange in the long allele (insertion) of the 5-HTT regulatory region. In individuals with more COMT met158 alleles and with more s or lG alleles of the 5-HTT regulatory region, aversive stimuli elicited greater neuronal activity in the bilateral amygdalae and hippocampi. These genotype effects were additive on amygdala and hippocampus activation by aversive versus neutral stimuli, indicating that COMT val158-met and 5-HTT genotype were additively associated with increased processing of aversive stimuli in the amygdalae. Functional brain imaging may be used to assess the interaction of multiple genotypes on neuronal activation in neuropsychiatric disorders.

S22.03

Influences of snap-25 polymorphisms on cognition and MRS spectra in psychoses and OCD

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Background: The SNAP-25 gene is an integral part of the vesicle docking and fusion machinery that controls the neurotransmitter release from the vesicles of the presynaptic neuron into the synaptic cleft. Several post mortem studies revealed a reduction of SNAP-25 protein in the hippocampus of patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Methods: 38 patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder and 15 healthy controls participated in the study. Proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy in left hippocampus was performed in each individual. Three single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) of the SNAP-25 gene were genotyped.

Results: Individuals with the homozygous CC genotype of the DdeI SNP presented a significantly higher ratio of NAA/Cho in the left hippocampus compared to the group of individuals with the homozygous TT genotype.

Conclusions: The present findings are consistent with the view that the SNAP-25 genotype may modulate synaptic plasticity and neurogenesis in the left hippocampus, and that an altered NAA/Cho ratio may be an indicator for this genetic modulation of neuronal function in the hippocampus.

Symposium: Migrant women - An issue of importance for European psychiatrists

S28.01

Migrant women and their utilization of psychiatric services compared to Danish women

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Background: In many ways, female migrants face different life situations and are exposed to different life situations compared to other women, but surprisingly little attention has been paid to gender and migrant status.

Material: A nationwide study was carried out comprising 50,877 persons aged 18-66, who were registered in 2003 in the Danish Psychiatric Register or the National Patient Register with a psychiatric ICD-10 diagnosis.

The population was divided into 5 ethnic groups: 87.1% were ethnic Danes, 7.8% migrants, 4.0% descendants with one Danish born parent, 0.7% descendants with both parents born outside Denmark and 0.3% adoptees. Males comprised 49% women 51% of the population.

The 5 ethnic groups had significant differences in utilization of care, diagnostic distribution and use of coercion.

Results: Women had higher contact rates in all groups apart from migrants.

Among the descendants of mixed background we saw particularly in young women a significantly higher contact rate for nervous disorders, personality disorders, and self-mutilating behaviour compared to young Danish women.

Self-mutilating behaviour was seen more frequently among female off-springs from non-Western countries than among migrant women from non-Western countries

Conclusion: Possible explanations to the ethnic differences in terms of e.g. cultural identity, and gender issues will be outlined as well as ways to fulfil the therapeutic needs of these female populations.

S28.02

Mental health issues of Turkish female immigrants residing in the UK - A follow-up study

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One hundred consecutive Turkish female immigrants referred by their General Practitioner to a mental clinic between 1998 – 2000 were assessed for their social background, educational, linguistic capabilities and support network. They were assessed for their mental health problems and were given psychiatric diagnosis including mixed anxiety depression, panic attacks, PTSD, obsessionality and severe mental health problems i.e. bipolar affective disorder and psychosis.

7 years later the same cohort were reviewed for their psychiatric problems.

It is interesting to note that 75% of all women who warranted a psychiatric diagnosis on the first assessment were free of symptoms on the second assessment. They had acclimatised to their host country and had improved psychologically.

The study will present the personal and social factors that contributed to the psychological well-being, stability and integration of this cohort.

S28.03

Symposium in migrant women: war rape disclosure in women refugee

C.B. Bonnet. Paris, France

Clinical experiences in war areas: Croatia for Bosnian Women, Rwanda and Kabul