

**Objectives:** The objectives of the study are to analyse the preferred social network by adolescents diagnosed with eating disorders, as well as to measure characteristic and time-use of these networks.

**Methods:** We decided to undergo a transversal study to analyse the use of social media. For that, we developed a survey to reflect the use of the main social networks (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, YouTube and Reddit) in adolescents diagnosed with eating disorders in Spain, who are in outpatient treatment in a specialised ED unit.

**Results:** The total number of adolescents interviewed was 65; of these 96.9% were females and 3.1% males. The mean age was 14.8 years.

The preferred social network was Instagram (54%), followed by TikTok (34%) and YouTube (6%).

Most of the patients interviewed (68%) admitted checking Instagram daily, and 31% reflected spending between 1-3 hours/day. None of the adolescents reported using Facebook or Reddit.

The majority of adolescents (89%) admitted having ignored friend requests while 12% reflected the importance of having a high number of followers as a way of external validation, getting more 'likes' and getting to know more people.

**Conclusions:** The obtained results reinforce the need of exploring and taking into account the use of Social Media in adolescents with ED and how it may influence their pathology. There is a need for further prospective research in this field.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0825

### Anorexia Nervosa and Autism Spectrum Disorder: what links them?

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**Introduction:** According to the literature, about 35% of patients with Anorexia Nervosa (AN) also have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and this comorbidity occurs more frequently in males.

**Objectives:** With this work, the authors intend to address the characteristics present in this comorbidity and what is the impact of this comorbidity in the diagnosis, approach and prognosis of AN.

**Methods:** Non-systematic research of the literature through the PubMed database with the terms "autism spectrum disorder" and "anorexia nervosa". Only surveys conducted in the last 10 years were considered for inclusion.

**Results:** Although AN and ASD may seem to be quite distinct conditions, the studies found suggest the existence of four characteristics that overlap the two diagnoses: deficits in theory of mind, inability to switch between courses of action fluently, inability to see the whole pictures to the detriment of detail and alexithymia. Studies also point to greater resistance to treatment in AN when an ASD is present in comorbidity.

**Conclusions:** Scientific evidence suggests that autistic characteristics in people with AN are not a consequence of being underweight, but rather stable characteristics present before and after the onset of

AN. The studies thus conclude that comorbidity between the two disorders exists and is frequent enough to warrant greater attention to the diagnosis of ASD in people with AN. However, there are still no specific guidelines for the treatment of AN in people with ASD, which leads to a worse response to treatment, evolution and prognosis of AN in people with ASD.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0826

### EMOTIONAL PROCESSING IN ANOREXIA NERVOSA - WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NEUROMODULATION?

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**Introduction:** Anorexia Nervosa (AN) is an Eating Disorder (ED), being globally characterized by a low body mass index (BMI), intense fear of gaining weight, and distorted body image that motivates extreme food restrictions. The consequence is massive weight loss.

AN is the third leading cause of chronic illness among adolescents and the leading cause of death among psychiatric conditions.

Among patients with AN it is common the occurrence of psychiatric comorbidities, particularly depressive and anxiety syndromes. Negative emotions are very common and represent either primary aspects of the disease or arise secondarily to psychopathological or organic processes.

The therapeutic options for AN are scarce and only work for a small percentage of subjects.

It is known that difficulty in emotional regulation is one of the defining characteristics of ED, being a core feature of AN psychopathology.

**Objectives:** To highlight the importance of understanding the neurobiology of AN, how it is related to emotional processing and future directions for AN's management.

**Methods:** Non-systematic review of the literature using *Pubmed* database. Papers were selected according to their relevance.

**Results:** In recent literature, in purging AN-type (neurobiology similar to Bulimia Nervosa - BN), binge eating is a method of emotional regulation, while in restricting AN-type, food restriction is the way to deal with emotions, mainly negative emotions.

It is known that in AN, patients tend to eat less than usual in response to a negative emotion and more than usual in response to a positive emotion. In BN, the neurobiology works in a mirrored way, patients eat less than usual in response to a positive emotion and more than usual in response to a negative emotion.

In short, in the face of negative emotions, subjects with AN respond with dietary restriction and, subjects with BN respond with binge eating. On the other hand, more positive emotions seem to resolve the maladaptive eating behaviours inherent to both ED, with AN and BN subjects tending towards more balanced eating behaviours. One of the brain areas most implicated in the neurobiology of AN is the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (L-DLPFC), since this region is recognized as being involved in decision-making process and emotional regulation, and is therefore the target of novel and