

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

P. Falkai¹, H. Scherk¹, M. Backens², T. Schneider-Axmann¹, T. Wobrock¹, W. Reith², H.J. Möller³, B. Bondy³, O. Gruber¹.

¹Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Georg-August-University, Goettingen, Germany ²Department of Neuroradiology, Saarland University Hospital, Homburg, Germany ³Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, LM University of Munich, Munich, Germany

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

M.C. Kastrup¹, K. Helweg-Larsen². ¹Psych Center Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark ²National Institute Public Health, Copenhagen, Denmark

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

D. Kohen. Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine, Leigh, UK

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

1. Immediate reaction

- 1.1 Disclose of war rape in medical secrecy following
 - Mental health acute disorder
 - Genital Infections or haemorrhages
 - and mostly when women got unwanted pregnancy
- 1.2 Unwanted pregnancies may be an indicator of war rape
 - Some women disclose rape during the first trimester and ask for terminations even if the country has not legalized abortion in its law.
 - Other book lately their pregnancy because either they conceal it to their family or they deny it. Some experience harmful or violent thoughts against the fetus. Newborns are at risk of neonaticide and abandonment at birth. Some do not want to disclose their identity while coming to maternity wards.
- 1.3 A collective panic may happen if the war rape is disclosed in the media. In this case every effort should be made to prevent stigmatization of babies born as the result of war rape.

2. Long-term reaction

Most of women victim of war rape keep silent for a long time. If they develop symptoms like depression, PTSD, social phobia, sexual dysfunction, psychosomatic diseases, etc., they may disclose later the abuse during a medical examination, another pregnancy, a psychiatry follow up or a psychotherapy.

Women who have brought up children as the result of rape may ask child psychiatrists for managing their boundings and their questions.

Conclusion: Healthcare professionals working in migrant centre need to be trained to detect such war rape consequences.

S28.04

Psychiatric and social consequences of migration of Romanian women

I.V. Miclutiă, C.A. Popescu. *Department of Psychiatry, University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Second Psychiatric Clinic, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Background: Legal and illegal circulatory migration from Romania reached huge proportions after 2000, the impact being so far less investigated by the authorities from both the emigration and immigration countries.

Methods: All migrating women admitted during 2005-2006 were evaluated and recorded.

Results: Most Romanian female migrants were young, married, with high school, working on legal or illegal basis; they were hired in less qualified jobs as housekeepers or babysitters, below the qualification level previously held in Romania, being less paid as native workers (average income=760 Euros/month).

Due to the fact that these women lived alone abroad, leaving part of their close relatives at home, worked hard (9.5 hours/day), were uninsured, not relying on any social network, many of them accused mental health problems and somatic complaints, applying for medical services more often in the native country.

Discussion: The most frequently discussed issues related to the economic and social consequences of migration are: the increasing living standards, the lowering of unemployment rate, the development of investment opportunities. More profound social and medical problems have risen recently: mental health problems of migrants (among these we could name acute psychotic disorders, somatization disorders, depressive disorders), the difficult acculturation process, the maladaptation of the children.

Conclusions and Directions: More accurate screening for mental illness and cultural adjustment programs should be applied at least for legal sojourners prior to departure. Programs aimed at the psychological assistance of children in the native country or those facilitating the adjustment in the host country should be also developed.

Symposium: Assessment and treatment of sexual and violent offenders

S12.01

Community treatment of sexual offenders

P. Cosyns. *University of Antwerp, University Forensic Centre, Antwerp, Belgium*

Mental health care shifts from the hospital to the community. Belgium has a nation wide network of specialized mental health centres for the community treatment of sexual offenders. These centers are linked to three centres of reference, one in Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels. Our Flemish reference centre (Universitair Forensisch Centrum, www.ufc.be) treated and/or assessed 835 sexual offenders or patients with abnormalities of sexual preference (paraphilias). Most of them are sexual abusers of children or adolescents (87%). We developed an original out patient treatment program based on cognitive behavioral therapy combined if necessary with medication (SSRI or hormonal therapy).

The following problems will be presented and discussed:

- A multi step treatment model in order to enhance the motivation and adherence of the offender for the proposed treatment
- The best interest of the patient versus public safety issues in the treatment approach

Conclusion: Sexual abuse is in the western world recognized as a major Mental and Public Health problem. European countries must develop appropriate community assessment and treatment programs for sexual offenders. Research concerning treatment effectiveness must be developed.

S12.02

Childhood abuse in a sample of Swiss violent offenders

A. Rossegger. *Zurich Criminal Justice System, Zurich, Switzerland*

Catamnestic studies of sexually abused children have found an elevated risk of adulthood offending. Studies among offenders have repeatedly reported an elevated prevalence of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), especially among sex offenders. This study aimed to examine differences between offenders with and without a history of CSA. From correctional and court files socio-demographic, psychiatric and criminological data were collected for a representative sample of violent ($n = 292$) and sex offenders ($n = 159$) in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. Logistic regression analysis showed sexually abused offenders differed substantially from those not sexually abused. They were more likely to have grown up under a combination of distressing living conditions, to be mentally ill, and to prostitute themselves. They were also more likely to commit a sex offence, to have a pertinent criminal record (OR = 2.6) and a history of court-ordered therapy (OR = 2.6). The findings corroborate the association between CSA and sex offending. CSA appears to be associated with persistent offending and lack of therapy success.