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The role of cognitive vulnerability factors in occurrence and distinguishing of clinical and subclinical depression in adolescence

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Objectives:

The main objective of this paper is to investigate and determine the distinguish role of predictive risk factors of clinical and subclinical depression within the Cognitive Vulnerability-Transactional stress model of depression. We tried to answer the question: Which cognitive vulnerability risk factors are important for distinguishing of clinical, subclinical and control group and are significant for the occurrence of depression in adolescence?

Materials and Methods:

The research was conducted in clinics and schools in the three main centers of socio-demographic regions in North Macedonia. The sample consisted of: the clinical group 139 (33.7%) ; the subclinical group, 133 (32.3%) and 140 (34.0%) respondents in control group, aged 13-17 years. Predictive factors for depression were measured by a set of instruments.

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Results and Conclusions:

The results of comparing groups of adolescents with clinical depression, subclinical depression and control group, with the aim of determining whether they differ significantly with respect to the variables of cognitive vulnerability (dysfunctional attitudes, negative inferential style and ruminative response style), and psychosocial variables (negative life events and perceived social support) will be presented. Multiple predictive model for group membership in three groups: clinical, subclinical and control group, has been built by using canonical discriminant analysis.

Subsequent discriminant function analysis indicated that it was possible to distinguish groups on the basis of the mentioned predictors, and it allocated two discriminant functions (significant at $p < 0.001$). Unexpectedly, ruminative response style was the most powerful discriminative predictor possessing a positive and adaptive part, and, at the same time, it maximally distinguished the subclinical group from the clinical and control groups.

Key words: cognitive, clinical depression, subclinical depression, distinguish