

Abstract

The present study examined the relationships between self-mutilating behaviors (SMB), family invalidation (FI) and borderline personality features (BPD features) among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. Subjects, 2202 Chinese adolescents with age ranged between 11 and 19, completed questionnaires assessing self-mutilating behaviors, family invalidation, and different borderline personality features. Results indicated that compared to boys, girls tend to report more SMB and BPD features. However there was no gender differences on impulsivity and family invalidation. SMB was found to have significant correlations with suicidal behaviors, suicidal ideation, mood problems, anger and impulse control problems. Group comparisons revealed that self-mutilators generally displayed more BPD features and family relationship problems. Regression analyses indicated that family invalidation and borderline personality features, particularly impulse and anger control problems, operated together in predicting SMB. Path analyses showed that for boys, family invalidation did not contribute direct effect in predicting SMB. It's effect was mainly mediated through BPD features. For girls, family invalidation had both direct and indirect effects (mediating through BPD) on SMB. Clinical implications of these findings were discussed.