

## Abstract

Under the social pressure of thinness, body dissatisfaction is very common, especially among adolescent girls. However, only 2 % of girls who are dissatisfied with their body will eventually develop severe bulimic problems, implying that other variables may moderate the relationship between body dissatisfaction and bulimia. The present study aims at investigating the role of body dissatisfaction, fear of negative evaluation and self-esteem in the development of bulimic symptoms among Chinese adolescent girls in Hong Kong. One thousand three hundred and thirty one high school girls completed measures assessing body dissatisfaction, fear of negative evaluation, self-esteem, and disordered eating attitudes and behaviors. Results of hierarchical multiple regression analysis revealed a significant three-way interaction between body dissatisfaction, social anxiety and self-esteem. Post-hoc analyses showed that adolescent girls who are dissatisfied with their body show more disturbed eating attitudes and behaviors if they also display high social anxiety trait and low self-esteem. Consistent findings were shown through analyzing other bulimia related variables. The conceptual implications of these findings were discussed.