

Abstract

Objective: The current study examined the prevalence and correlates of the Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) among Chinese psychiatric patients. It was part of a larger study which aimed at establishing clinical norms for the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory – 2 (CPAI-2: Cheung, Kwong & Zhang, 2003).

Method: There were a total number of 1,147 valid subjects. Patients filled out the CPAI-2 and the Chinese Personality Disorder Inventory (CPDI: Leung, Cheung & Cheung, 2004). **Results:** The DSM-IV criteria assessing HPD gives a fair reliability alpha of .5674. Following DSM-IV's cut-off (having any 5 out of 8 symptoms), 32.6% (362 out of 1,100) fulfilled the diagnosis of HPD. Factor analysis suggests that there are 2 main factors determining the proneness of whether one falls into the clinical diagnosis of having HPD – attention seeking and the ease of being influenced by others. There are significant differences found between answers from male and female participants. Compared to non-HPD patients, patients with HPD reported significantly more cognitive (e.g. face, self orientation, distortion of reality), emotional (e.g. hypomania, emotionality) and interpersonal (e.g. need for attention, leadership, extraversion) characteristics. Re-grouping patients by 3 classes of seriousness brings inspiring results.