

Abstract

The American Psychiatric Association launched the fifth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) in May 2013. An alternative model of personality disorder (PD) has been included in the Section III of DSM-5, which indicates a need to further study its clinical utility and validity. Although recent studies explored the construct validity of the diagnostic criteria of PD in DSM-5 Section III, only one study has examined the validity of the whole PD model in DSM-5 including both pathological personality traits and impairment in personality functioning as diagnostic criteria (Hopwood et al., 2012). However, in this study, the authors did not apply diagnostic algorithms specified within DSM-5 Section III, but using the total scores to do the analysis. Moreover, none of those studies was conducted among Chinese population, and no study has examined the construct validity of the alternative DSM-5 model for BPD diagnosis (impairment in four aspects of personality functioning and seven pathological personality traits). Therefore, this study aims to examine the construct validity of alternative DSM-5 model for BPD in a Chinese college sample, and examined how well it maps onto DSM-IV BPD. A sample of 808 Chinese college students from a Hong Kong university was recruited in this study. DSM-5 Section III BPD diagnosis was assessed by Personality Inventory for DSM-5 (PID-5; Krueger et al., 2012) and Severity

Indices of Personality Problems-Short Form (SIPP-SF; Verheul et al., 2008). Results support the reliability, concurrent validity and factorial validity of the DSM-5 Section III BPD diagnostic criteria. In particular, the pathological personality traits of BPD (criterion B) are best represented by two correlated dimensions, namely emotional dysregulation and behavioral dysregulation. The diagnostic criteria of DSM-5 Section III BPD were found to be at least moderately correlated to DSM-5 Section II BPD diagnosis. Frequency rates and comparisons of the characteristics of Section II and III BPD groups were conducted. Results showed that all BPD groups had higher levels of distress and BPD characteristics than the normal control groups. Participants who met both Section II and III BPD diagnoses had the highest scores on DASS and measures of BPD characteristics. Implications of these findings for clinical implication and future research are discussed.