

Abstract

Background: Studies have demonstrated that maladaptive parenting tends to persist across generations and contributes to the emergence of borderline personality disorder (BPD). However, factors that shape paternal parenting and fathers' effects on child development are relatively understudied. This study aims to examine the perpetuation of different types of anomalous parenting styles, indifference, abuse, and overcontrol, with a particular focus on fathers, and the impact of ineffective parenting on the development of BPD symptoms in adolescents. Methods: 78 adolescents and their parents were recruited in the community setting. Participants were asked to complete self-reported questionnaires assessing BPD symptoms using Borderline Symptom List 23 (BSL-23) and perceived parental styles from their mothers and fathers using Measure of Parenting Style (MOPS). Results: This study found that dysfunctional parenting styles persisted only in fathers. Specifically, perceived indifference and abuse were associated with adolescents' perception of paternal abuse, while perceived overcontrol was positively correlated with adolescents' perception of paternal overcontrol. Furthermore, among all maladaptive parenting styles studied, perceived overcontrol from both parents predicted BPD features in adolescents. Conclusion: Future parenting interventions should target more on fathers and the overcontrolling parenting style to break the cycle of intergenerational continuation of dysfunctional parenting and prevent the emergence of BPD.