Influence of Betrayal Trauma on Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Pathology
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INTRODUCTION

• Obsessive compulsive personality disorder (OCPD) is one of the most common forms of personality pathology.
• Research suggests that one risk factor for OCPD is trauma.
• This research has focused almost exclusively on childhood trauma.
• Another form of trauma associated with personality pathology in general is betrayal trauma, an effect that differs depending on sex.
• The goal of this study was to examine the influence of betrayal trauma on OCPD.

METHODS

• Participants were 300 men and women (age mean = 38 years; see Table 1) recruited via Amazon’s Mechanical Turk.
• Measured OCPD personality pathology using the intimacy avoidance, perseveration, restricted affectivity, and perfectionism subscales of the Personality Inventory for DSM-5.
• We measured betrayal trauma using the Brief Betrayal Trauma Survey.
• We analyzed data using a Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling (BSEM).

RESULTS

• Across the sample and for women, traumas with medium low degrees of betrayal were associated with OCPD (see Figures 1-2).
• Trauma with high medium degrees of betrayal was associated with OCPD for men (see Figure 3).

DISCUSSION

• Findings suggest that trauma in general was associated with OCPD pathology.
• Betrayal trauma was only uniquely associated with OCPD for men.
• This is consistent with research on the association between betrayal trauma and antisocial/psychopathic personality pathology.
• Findings suggest that men may have an idiosyncratic response to trauma high in betrayal.
• Findings further hint at the potential utility of incorporating trauma-focused techniques into treatment for OCPD.
• Future research can examine how effective this is in practice.