**Incremental Effects of Sexual Assault and Temperament Traits on Cognitive Characteristics of Histrionic Personality Disorder**

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**INTRODUCTION**

- Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) is characterized by beliefs that one needs to be interesting and seductive to others in order to have value.
- There is robust data on the influence of temperament traits on HPD.
- One understudied potential influence on HPD is sexual assault, which has been shown to influence other PDs.
- It may be particularly likely that sexual assault may influence cognitive characteristics of HPD given the often sexualized presentation of HPD.

**METHODS**

- Participants: 1,026 college students.
- Assessed constructs of interest using a battery of well-validated measures.
- Analyzed incremental effect of sexual assault on HPD beliefs controlling for temperament traits using a Bayesian approach to Analysis of Covariance.

**RESULTS**

- Modest effects of Negative Affect ($\beta = .19$) and Positive Affect ($\beta = -.18$).
- Medium-sized incremental effect of sexual assault ($\beta = .30$).

**DISCUSSION**

- These results provide evidence for the influence of sexual assault on cognitive characteristics of HPD.
- Findings highlight the need to assess for sexual assault history in patients espousing beliefs characteristic of HPD.
- Results also provide support for studying trauma-focused interventions in people with HPD.
- Future research should build on these findings by examining the influence of other traumatic experiences on HPD.

**Sexual assault victimization predicts cognitive characteristics of Histrionic Personality Disorder over and above temperament traits.**