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The Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse Interview (CECA): Internalising and Externalising disorder in adults and adolescents

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Aspects of Abuse and Trauma

- ▶ Need to differentiate Exposure (perpetrator action; trauma event) from Impact (physical or emotional harm; trauma disorders)
- ▶ Important to emphasise the Interpersonal (eg Abuse) as attachment trauma.
- ▶ Childhood trauma has long term impact on relationships and psychological disorder.
- ▶ Measures are needed to encompass complexity of early life trauma for modelling different disorders.

Attachment Theory

Bowlby, 1969-80 Attachment and Loss trilogy.

- ▶ Attachment theory provides a useful framework for investigating lifespan linkages between early interactions between parent and child and subsequent relationship style in adolescence and adulthood.
- ▶ Attachment style has the potential for providing differential pathways to different disorders

Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse

Bifulco et al 1994; Bifulco & Moran 1998

- ▶ Semi-structured interview to assess early life experience originally tested in the 1990s. Validated in Germany, Italy and Portugal.
- ▶ Broad coverage of neglect and abuse together with a chronology.
- ▶ Type of neglect/abuse; severity, timing and relationship to perpetrator established.
- ▶ A self-report version CECA.Q available. Translated into a number of languages (Bifulco et al 2005)

(www.cecainterview.com)

CECA scales

All assessed for each parent figure/perpetrator.

All measured on 4 point scales of severity according to benchmarked thresholds

- ▶ Neglect – material indifference to child’s needs
- ▶ Antipathy – cold or critical parenting
- ▶ Supervision – failure to monitor child’s safety
- ▶ Role Reversal – pressure on child to care for parent and take over parental responsibilities
- ▶ Physical abuse – being hit repeatedly sufficient to cause physical harm eg with implement
- ▶ Sexual abuse – exploitative sexual contact or non contact with explicit sexual coercion
- ▶ Psychological – sadistic coercive control

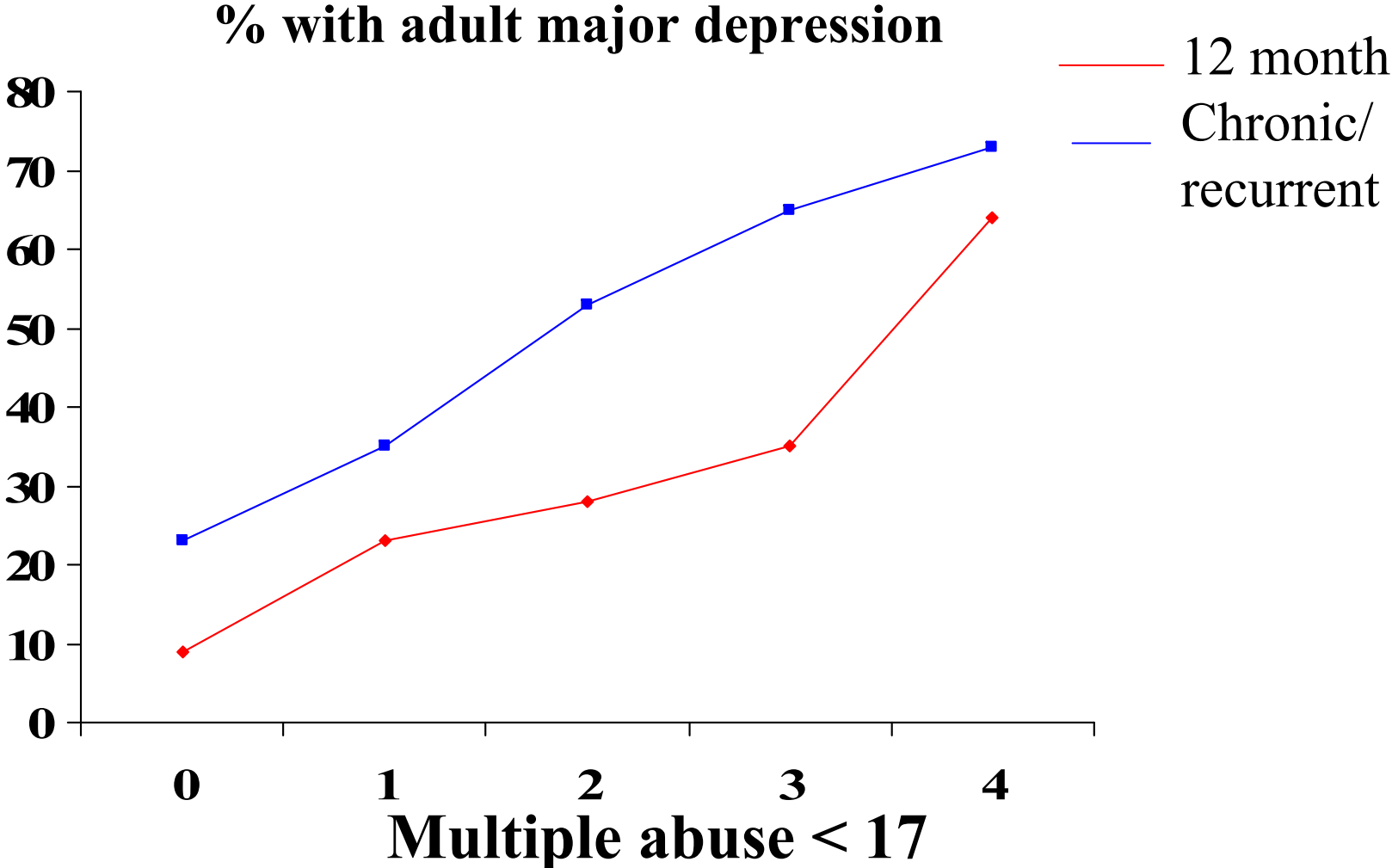
London sample

- ▶ 303 high risk women, selected from GP surgeries and given a life history interview in their own homes.
- ▶ 160 adolescent/young adult offspring of same sample of mothers interviewed independently.
- ▶ All assessed using CECA interview
- ▶ SCID Axis I used to assess disorder (Depression, Anxiety, Substance abuse; Conduct disorder; Self harm).
- ▶ Attachment Style Interview to assess ongoing attachment style.

CECA experience and *major depression* in 12 months: (303 adult community women)

CECA dichotomy – Severe (1-2)	Odds ratio	P<
Antipathy mother	1.94	.07
Antipathy father	2.93	.05
Lax supervision	1.78	.10
Neglect	3.18	.001
Physical abuse	3.00	.001
Sexual abuse	7.00	.001
Psychological abuse	2.85	.007
Index: Neglect, physical or sexual abuse	3.20	.001

Dose-Response effects of multiple neglect/abuse (303 adult community women)



Severe neglect or physical or sexual or psychological abuse

CECA.Q (2005)

A self-report questionnaire with
5 sections validated against interview:

- ▶ Loss of parent

Maternal vs Paternal:

- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Antipathy
- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Sexual Abuse

Support

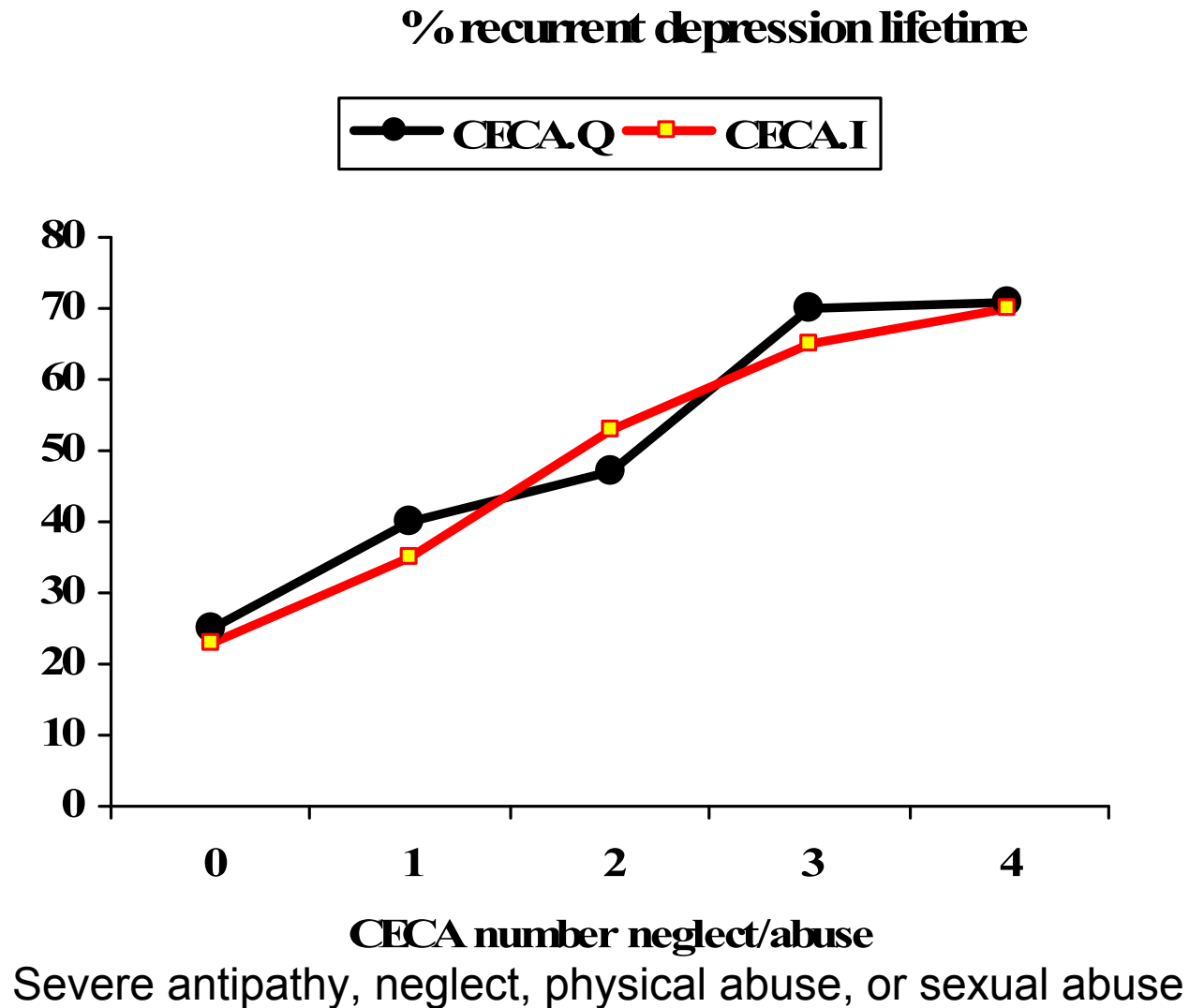
Optional

- ▶ Psychological abuse
- ▶ Role reversal

CECA.Q & CECA interview

- ▶ Correlations of individual scales of .50-.64
- ▶ High sensitivity and specificity
- ▶ Cut-off scores show significant association with depression (average OR=2.15).
- ▶ High correlations with PBI for neglect and antipathy (.62-.77) outperformed PBI in relating to adult depression

Dose-response effect of CECA.Q and CECA.I and depression





CECA interview and disorder in high risk adolescent/ young adults

Community sample of 160 high risk young people in
London aged 16-30

- CECA and different disorders
- CECA and attachment style

CECA experience & lifetime emotional disorder

CECA dichotomy	OR	Depression	Anxiety	Self harm
Antipathy mother		1.60, ns	3.2 **	2.88**
Antipathy father		1.80, ns	0.71, ns	2.40 *
Role reversal		1.89,ns	1.76, ns	11.90***
Lax supervision		1.8, ns	1.85, ns	4.95**
Neglect from mother		2.66 **	3.22, **	8.04**
Neglect from father		0.89, ns	0.90, ns	2.71, **
Physical abuse mother		3.01**	1.56, ns	3.77 **
Physical abuse father		1.61,ns	1.81, ns	1.24, ns
Psychological abuse		.84, ns	1.1, ns	1.90, ns
Sexual abuse		3.49,ns	2.1, ns	2.00,ns
Index: Neglect, physical sexual abuse		2.69 **	3.16 ***	1.86 ns

****p<.001; ***p<.0001**

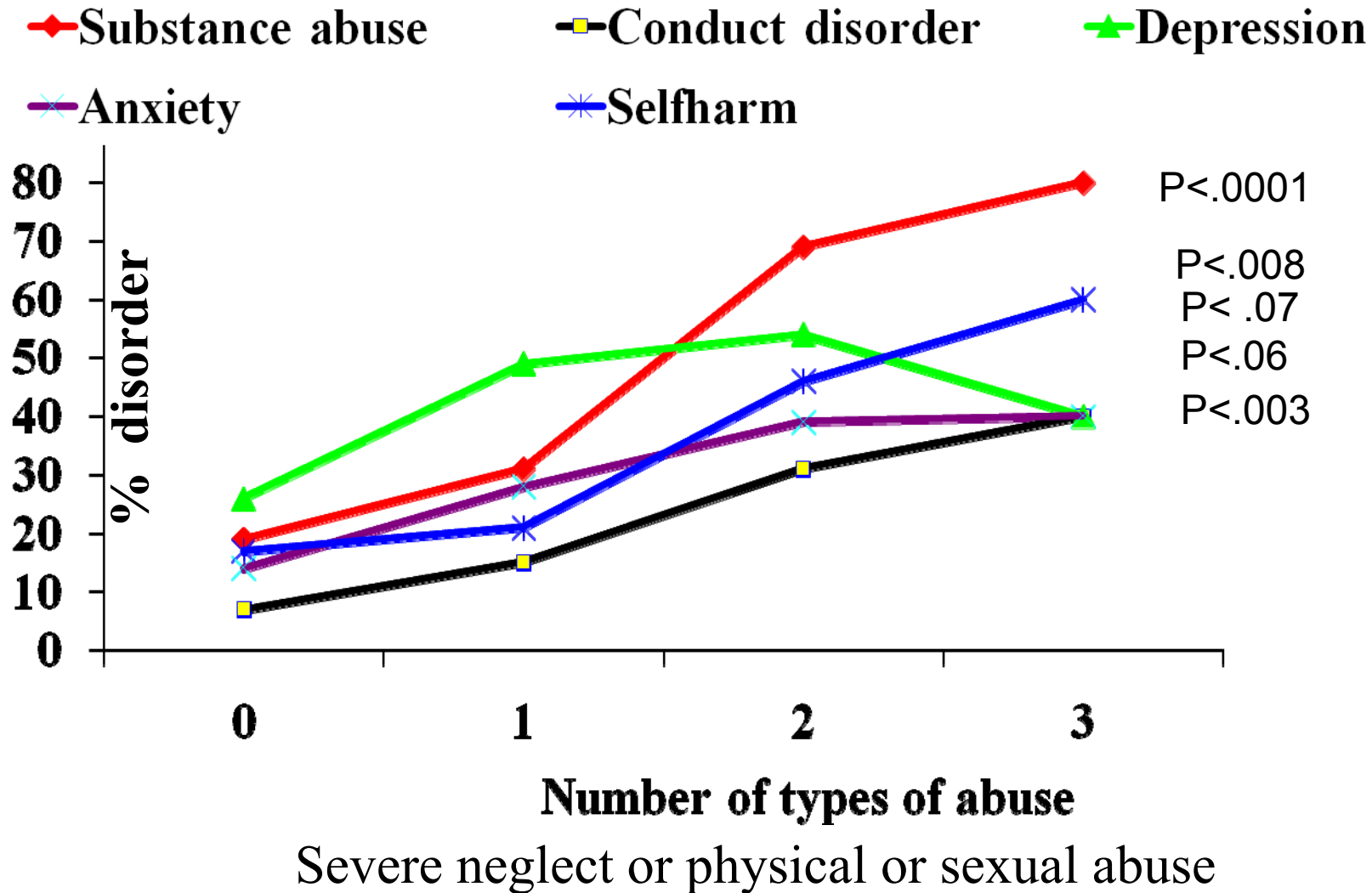
CECA & lifetime behavioural disorder

CECA dichotomy:	OR	Substance Abuse	Conduct disorder
Antipathy mother		2.27*	2.60 *
Antipathy father		4.08***	4.08 ***
Neglect mother		2.36, *	2.08, ns
Neglect father		2.85, **	1.63, ns
Role reversal		3.39 **	0.75,ns
Lax supervision		2.88***	3.04 **
Physical abuse mo		2.20*	3.3**
Physical abuse father		4.69**	1.81,ns
Psychological abuse		2.1, ns	2.2, ns
Sexual abuse		15.00**	18***
Index of neglect, physical, sexual abuse		2.41 **	3.45**

* p<.05; ** p<.01; *** p<.001

Dose-response effect and disorder

(N= 160)



Disorder and parent perpetrator -I

Outcome lifetime emotional disorder

Variable	OR	Df	P<
Poor mothering (antipathy, neglect, physical abuse)	3.17	1	.007
Poor fathering	0.47	1	NS
Gender -Female	2.04	1	(.07)

**Poor mothering is best predictor of emotional disorder
Goodness of fit 75.3%**

Disorder and parent perpetrator -2

Outcome lifetime behavioural disorder

Variable	OR	Df	P<
Poor mothering (antipathy, neglect, physical abuse)	.57	1	NS
Poor fathering	4.2	1	.002
Gender Male	1.50	1	NS

Poor fathering is best predictor of behavioural disorder
Goodness of fit 79.5%

Attachment style and disorder - literature

- ▶ 'Preoccupied/enmeshed' (Gerlsma and Luteijn, 2000); 'Fearful' (Murphy and Bates, 1997)
- ▶ Avoidant style (McCarthy, 1999) or either (Mickelson et al., 1997) relate to depression.
- ▶ Disorganised styles is related to unresolved loss (Main and Solomon, 1990); dissociation and complex trauma (Liotti, 2004) and violent behaviour (Fonagy, 97, van Ijzendoorn et al 1997)

CECA and ASI styles

- ▶ Antipathy, physical abuse and neglect from mother all associated with Anxious attachment style (Enmeshed or Fearful).
- ▶ Antipathy father associated with Avoidant Angry-dismissive style
- ▶ Multiples of neglect/abuse relate to any insecure style, and dual/disorganised styles.

ASI styles and disorder

- ▶ Anxious styles (Enmeshed or Fearful) relate to emotional disorder (OR=4.95 **), and have a mediating role.
- ▶ Angry-dismissive style (rare in this young series) relates to self-harm (OR=4.44*).
- ▶ The anger subscale relates significantly to conduct disorder, substance abuse & self harm.
- ▶ Dual/disorganised style relates to substance abuse (OR=7.28 *)

Summary

- ▶ Detailed measures of childhood maltreatment/ interpersonal trauma are needed for modelling different disorders.
- ▶ Variety of childhood maltreatment relate to a range of clinical disorders, some specificity.
- ▶ Relationship to parent perpetrator predicts different emotional or behavioural disorder
- ▶ Attachment models can help specify mediation.
- ▶ Understanding childhood trauma and attachment can help clinicians and practitioners.



Thank you for your attention!

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