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Madeleine G. Karpel, PhD & Matthew W. Jerram, PhD

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Abstract

Extant research indicates that dissociation may act as a risk factor for nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI), but the data are mixed. In this study, 75 university and community females ages 18–35 were assessed for rates of normative, clinical, and severely clinical dissociation as well as for NSSI. Significant differences in normative dissociation were found between the control group and the group reporting a history of NSSI. In addition, normative dissociation—but not clinical or severely clinical dissociation—was found to be significantly associated with NSSI in this sample. Considering this finding in the

context of the existing literature, we propose a quartile risk model of dissociation and NSSI as a new approach to the influences of levels of dissociation on NSSI risk.

KEYWORDS:

nonsuicidal self-injury | NSSI | self-injury | dissociation | risk factor | model

Additional information

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