

25/02 - “Vinculação e regulação autonómica: desenvolvimento da versão 2.0 do BioDreAMS e aplicação a um grupo não-clínico” - “Attachment and autonomic regulation: Development of BioDReAMS 2.0 and application to a non-clinical group”

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Abstract: Technological advances made possible to develop (Bial grant 43/96), a system (BioDReAMS 1.0, Bio Dual-channel and Representation of Attachment Multimedia System) that allows a synchronous collection of audiovisual information, ECG signals and skin conductance during the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI). This project aims: 1) to improve BioDReAMS, by developing a new version (2.0); 2) to apply BioDReAMS 2.0 to a non-clinical group of 50 young females that will be compared to a matched clinical eating disorders sample.

Compared to the first version, BioDReAMS 2.0 has improvements at data acquisition, video capture, program structure, and document mode. Data of 50 females, between 18 to 30 years old, from different educational and occupational backgrounds, which were matched with a clinical group of eating disordered patients, will be analyzed. The AAI scored with Kobak's Q-Sort method allows to identify attachment patterns (Secure, Dismissing and Preoccupied), mega-items, and security-insecurity and deactivation-hyperactivation strategies.

Out of the 50 non-clinical subjects, 33 were classified as secure, 11 as dismissing, and 6 as preoccupied. In the clinical sample, 15 patients were secure, 23 preoccupied and 9 dismissing. The clinical group, in comparison to the non-clinical group, showed higher scores in family disruption, preoccupied, dismissing, harsh mother, parental rejection and family enmeshment mega-items. Otherwise, the non-clinical group exhibited higher scores in the mother base and coherence mega-items. In terms of electrodermal activity, the non-clinical group evidenced more increases in the sympathetic activity, through all AAI questions, than the clinical group. Similarly, the heart rate of the non-clinical group showed an higher increase along the first part of the AAI (e.g., adjectives for mother and for father, upset). In terms of heart rate, the clinical group showed less increases, when talking about the background, relationship with the parents, adjectives for mother and for father. Considering the LF/HF ratio, the non-clinical group evidenced higher ratio values than the clinical group, when the interview asked about upset and separation experiences. In the clinical sample, moderate to high correlations were found between deactivation and increased parasympathetic activity in the response to questions like problems and rejections. The results will be discussed focusing clinical relevance and attachment research.

Keywords: attachment representation; psychophysiological correlates; eating disorders