

Abstract for

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Presentation

Workshop

Male / Female / Diverse

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Presentation title: **Transgenerational Transmission of Violence Among Parents with Severe
Psychiatric Disorders**

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Abstract text up to 15 lines in English:

The early years of life are accepted as the most critical period of psychological development. The problem of physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children, as well as their being neglected, is present in all environments, but it has usually been hidden and held as a family secret. As the awareness of the importance of childhood trauma in shaping the course of people's lives is growing, many have noticed that early trauma at childhood might disturb the stress processing and coping with daily stress and might eventually lead to some serious impact on the adult life, with difficulties in both personal and social aspects; Many studies have even linked childhood abuse to mental illness. It might be possible, also that specific forms of childhood abuse are linked to particular disorders. For example, sexual abuse shows strong correlations with later depression and borderline personality disorder and physical abuse with antisocial personality disorder [3]. In addition, a dose-response relationship has been documented in several recent publications arising from the adverse childhood experiences study (ACEs). Results from this large-scale epidemiological study have documented a positively graded relationship between the number of types of ACEs experienced and the severity of mental health difficulties, attempted suicide, memory, sexual, and aggression-related problems later in life. The more severe the abuse, the greater the probability of psychiatric disorder in adulthood.

Patient with psychiatric disorders are distinct from healthy individuals in many ways: their perception, their emotional range and their psychosocial functioning is impaired due to recurring periods of illness and symptoms, their illness poses significant risks for the social and emotional development of their children: Some forms of violent behavior can be passed down through generations and might take part of everyday life.

The aim of this study is investigate the possibility of a link between psychotic disorders and traumatic experiences in a group of patients diagnosed with psychotic disorders by comparing childhood trauma exposure with a group of non-psychotic psychiatric disorder attending the same psychiatric department. Our secondary aim is to assess the patient relation to their children and to determine whether there is a transgenerational transmission of violence within the family.