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A naturalistic longitudinal study of extended inpatient treatment for adults with borderline personality disorder: An examination of treatment response, remission and deterioration

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Abstract

Background:

Experts express reluctance to hospitalize patients with borderline personality disorder (BPD) for more than a few days, arguing that extended inpatient care leads to deterioration and adverse events. To date, there is no empirical support for these assertions.

Aims:

The current study examined the assumption of iatrogenic effects among BPD adults.

Methods:

Clinically significant and reliable change in symptoms, functional capacities, and adverse events were quantified for both inpatients with BPD (n=245) and a well-matched inpatient reference (n=220) sample. Latent growth curve (LGC) models were used to evaluate moderators of the trajectory of PHQ-9 depression scores over the course of hospitalization.

Results:

Large effect size improvements were observed in depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and functional disability among patients with BPD (Cohen’s d ≥ 1.0) and those in the reference sample (Cohen’s d ≥.80). Clinical deterioration and adverse events were rare (occurring in no more than 1.1% of BPD and reference patients on any outcome) with no difference across patient cohorts. BPD diagnosis failed to

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