Suicidality and self-compassion in patients with major depressive disorder: The mediating role of the avoidant attachment type

Suicidality, self-compassion, and avoidant attachment

Vasiliki Yotsidi, Charis Ntakolia, Ioanna Rannou, Pilios-Dimitris Stavrou, Panagiotis Ferentinos, Athanasios Douzenis, Nikolaos Smyrnis, Efthimia Gavriilidou, Rossetos Gournellis

doi: 10.4081/ripppo.2024.826

${\bf Appendix\ 1}$ Calculation of Cronbach's α for each questionnaire and sub-scale

Table 1. Cronbach's Alpha for the study's questionnaires and sub-scales.

| Questionnaire and sub-scale | No. items | Cronbach's Alpha |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| ECRS | 36 | 0.933 |
| ECRS_anxiety | 18 | 0.926 |
| ECRS_avoidance | 18 | 0.930 |
| SCS | 26 | 0.904 |
| SCS_plus | 13 | 0.885 |
| SCS_minus | 13 | 0.856 |
| BDI | 21 | 0.906 |
| SBQR | 4 | 0.786 |

Appendix 2

Exploratory factor analysis for ECRS and SCS questionnaires

Table 1. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure and Bartlett's test of sphericity for ECRS and SCS.

| Metrics | ECRS | SCS |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| KMO | 0.92 | 0.89 |
| Bartlett's test statistic | 5605.03** | 2722.15** |

^{**}p value<0.001

Table 2. Factor loadings for ECRS questionnaire.

| Question | Factor Loading | |
|--|----------------|---------|
| | Avoidance | Anxiety |
| 1. I prefer not to show a partner how I feel deep down. | 0.552 | -0.009 |
| 2. I'm afraid that I will lose my partner's love. | 0.115 | 0.679 |
| 3. I feel comfortable sharing my private thoughts and | 0.704 | 0.023 |
| feelings with my partner. a | | |
| 4. I often worry that my partner will not want to stay | 0.090 | 0.753 |
| with me. | | |
| 5. I find it difficult to allow myself to depend on | 0.354 | 0.233 |
| romantic partners. | | |
| 6. I often worry that my partner doesn't really love me. | 0.217 | 0.753 |
| 7. I am very comfortable being close to romantic | 0.618 | 0.097 |
| partners. ^a | | |
| 8. I worry that romantic partners won't care about me as | 0.052 | 0.714 |
| much as I care about them. | | |
| 9. I don't feel comfortable opening up to romantic | 0.555 | 0.157 |
| partners. | | |
| 10. I often wish that my partner's feelings for me were as | -0.077 | 0.612 |
| strong as my feelings for him/her. | | |
| 11. I prefer not to be too close to romantic partners. | 0.708 | 0.109 |
| 12. I worry a lot about relationships. | 0.084 | 0.706 |
| , 1 | | |

| 13. I get uncomfortable when a romantic partner wants | 0.634 | -0.065 |
|--|--------|--------|
| to get very close. | | |
| 14. When my partner is out of sight, I worry that he or | 0.041 | 0.634 |
| she might become interested in someone else. | | |
| 15. I find it relatively easy to get close to my partner. ^a | 0.643 | 0.200 |
| 16. When I show my feelings for romantic partners, I'm | 0.168 | 0.739 |
| afraid they won't feel the same way about me. | | |
| 17. It's not difficult for me to get close to my partner. ^a | 0.557 | 0.143 |
| 18. I rarely worry about my partner leaving me. ^a | 0.110 | 0.582 |
| 19. I usually discuss my problems and concerns with my | 0.736 | 0.188 |
| partner. ^a | | |
| 20. My romantic partner makes me doubt myself. | 0.274 | 0.592 |
| 21. It helps to turn to my romantic partner in times of | 0.701 | 0.178 |
| need. a | | |
| 22. I do not often worry about being abandoned. ^a | 0.013 | 0.631 |
| 23. I tell my partner just about everything. ^a | 0.823 | 0.094 |
| 24. I find that my partner(s) don't want to get as close as | 0.092 | 0.653 |
| I would like. | | |
| 25. I talk things over with my partner. ^a | 0.811 | 0.157 |
| 26. Sometimes romantic partners change their feelings | 0.110 | 0.625 |
| about me for no apparent reason. | | |
| 27. I am nervous when partners get too close to me. | 0.628 | 0.120 |
| 28. My desire to be very close sometimes scares people | -0.104 | 0.612 |
| away. | | |
| 29. I feel comfortable depending on romantic partners. ^a | 0.756 | 0.158 |
| 30. I'm afraid that once a romantic partner gets to know | 0.274 | 0.630 |
| me, he or she won't like who I really am. | | |
| 31. I find it easy to depend on romantic partners. ^a | 0.677 | 0.072 |
| 32. It makes me mad that I don't get the affection and | 0.117 | 0.578 |
| support I need from my partner. | | |
| 33. It's easy for me to be affectionate with my partner. ^a | 0.650 | -0.012 |
| 34. I worry that I won't measure up to other people. | 0.142 | 0.445 |
| 35. My partner really understands me and my needs. ^a | 0.440 | 0.421 |
| 36. My partner only seems to notice when I'm angry. | 0.275 | 0.434 |
| a Item is reverse scored | | |

^a Item is reverse scored.

 Table 3. Factor loadings for SCS questionnaire.

| Question | Factor | Loading |
|---|----------|----------|
| | Positive | Negative |
| 1. I'm disapproving and judgmental about my own flaws | 0.103 | 0.544 |
| and inadequacies. ^a | | |
| 2. When I'm feeling down, I tend to obsess and fixate on | 0.156 | 0.479 |
| everything that's wrong. a | | |
| 3. When things are going badly for me, I see the | 0.581 | 0.080 |
| difficulties as part of life that everyone goes through. | | |
| 4. When I think about my inadequacies, it tends to make | 0.205 | 0.571 |
| me feel more separate and cut off from the rest of the | | |
| world. ^a | | |
| 5. I try to be loving toward myself when I'm feeling | 0.589 | 0.230 |
| emotional pain. | | |
| 6. When I fail at something important to me, I become | 0.187 | 0.667 |
| consumed by feelings of inadequacy. ^a | | |
| 7. When I'm down, I remind myself that there are lots of | 0.596 | 0.020 |
| other people in the world feeling like I am. | | |
| 8. When times are really difficult, I tend to be tough on | 0.091 | 0.565 |
| myself. ^a | | |
| 9. When something upsets me, I try to keep my emotions | 0.517 | 0.050 |
| in balance. | | |
| 10. When I feel inadequate in some way, I try to remind | 0.579 | 0.043 |
| myself that feelings of inadequacy are shared by most | | |
| people. | | |
| 11. I'm intolerant and impatient toward those aspects of | 0.055 | 0.672 |
| my personality I don't like. ^a | | |
| 12. When I'm going through a very hard time, I give | 0.642 | 0.302 |
| myself the caring and tenderness I need. | | |
| 13. When I'm feeling down, I tend to feel like most | 0.141 | 0.476 |
| other people are probably happier than I am. ^a | | |
| 14. When something painful happens, I try to take a | 0.515 | 0.231 |
| balanced view of the situation. | | |

| 15. I try to see my failings as part of the human | 0.641 | 0.244 | |
|---|-------|-------|--|
| condition. | | | |
| 16. When I see aspects of myself that I don't like, I get | 0.260 | 0.638 | |
| down on myself. ^a | | | |
| 17. When I fail at something important to me, I try to | 0.601 | 0.160 | |
| keep things in perspective. | | | |
| 18. When I'm really struggling, I tend to feel like other | 0.039 | 0.515 | |
| people must be having an easier time of it. ^a | | | |
| 19. I'm kind to myself when I'm experiencing suffering | 0.558 | 0.398 | |
| 20. When something upsets me, I get carried away with | 0.238 | 0.376 | |
| my feelings. ^a | | | |
| 21. I can be a bit cold-hearted toward myself when I'm | 0.088 | 0.444 | |
| experiencing suffering. a | | | |
| 22. When I'm feeling down, I try to approach my | 0.551 | 0.185 | |
| feelings with curiosity and openness. | | | |
| 23. I'm tolerant of my own flaws and inadequacies. | 0.499 | 0.409 | |
| 24. When something painful happens, I tend to blow the | 0.230 | 0.417 | |
| incident out of proportion. a | | | |
| 25. When I fail at something that's important to me, I | 0.253 | 0.623 | |
| tend to feel alone in my failure. ^a | | | |
| 26. I try to be understanding and patient toward those | 0.607 | 0.319 | |
| aspects of my personality I don't like. | | | |

^a Item is reverse scored.

Appendix 3 Descriptive statistics of the study variables

Table 1. Means, standard deviations, and minimum and maximum values.

| Variable | Mean | SD | Min | Max |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Suicidality (SBQ-R) | 7.77 | 4.70 | 3 | 22 |
| Attachment total (ECRS) | 3.65 | 1.16 | 1 | 6.53 |
| Anxious attachment | 3.67 | 1.45 | 1 | 7 |
| (ECRS_anxiety) | | | | |
| Avoidant attachment | 3.62 | 1.40 | 1 | 7 |
| (ECRS_avoidance) | | | | |
| Self-compassion total (SCS) | 2.61 | 0.69 | 1.12 | 4.35 |
| Negative aspects of self- | 2.47 | 0.78 | 1.00 | 4.77 |
| compassion (SCS_minus) | | | | |
| Positive aspects of self- | 2.76 | 0.81 | 1.00 | 4.69 |
| compassion (SCS_plus) | | | | |
| Depression (BDI-II) | 25.84 | 12.37 | 0 | 55 |

Appendix 4 Generalized Linear Model (GLM) and Ordinary Least Square models (OLS)

Table 1. Results of the effect of the independent variable (X), self-compassion, on the dependent variable (Y), suicidality.

| | Estimate | SE | 95% CI | | Z | p |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | LL | UL | | |
| Intercept | 14.4925 | 1.252 | 12.039 | 16.946 | 11.579 | <.001 |
| X | -2.5398 | 0.461 | -3.444 | -1.635 | -5.505 | <.001 |

Table 2. Results of the effect of the independent variable (X), self-compassion, on the mediator (M), avoidance.

| | Estimate | SE | 95% CI | | Z | p |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | LL | UL | | |
| Intercept | 4.8961 | 0.384 | 4.139 | 5.653 | 12.738 | <.001 |
| X | -0.4821 | 0.142 | -0.761 | -0.203 | -3.402 | .001 |

Table 3. Results of the effect of the independent variable (X), self-compassion and the mediator(M), avoidance on the dependent variable (Y), suicidality.

| | Estimate | SE | 95% CI | | Z | p |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | LL | UL | | |
| Intercept | 11.5927 | 1.559 | 8.523 | 14.662 | 7.436 | <.001 |
| X | -2.2542 | 0.464 | -3.168 | -1.340 | -4.857 | <.001 |
| M | 0.5923 | 0.195 | 0.209 | 0.976 | 3.039 | .003 |