

Gender Related Romantic Attachment and Serum Oxytocin Level Difference in Adult Patients with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

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Abstract

Background: Given the scarcity of data on gender-related romantic attachment changes and the potential role of oxytocin (OT) in the pathophysiology of obsessive-compulsive illness (OCD), the current study aimed to assess gender-related differences in romantic attachment characteristics and their relationship to serum oxytocin in a set of forty OCD cases compared with a similar group of healthy controls . Simultaneously examining the gender differences in serum oxytocin levels in OCD patients. The diagnosis of OCD patients was determined using DSM 5 criteria, and the severity of OCD was determined using the Y-BOCS rating scale. All of the patients were drug-free and not depressed. The romantic attachment was assessed using the "Experiences in Close Relationship " Questionnaire. Standard ELISA kits were used to assess plasma oxytocin levels. **Results:** Regarding romantic attachments, patients with obsessive compulsive disorder scored higher on the anxiety and avoidance domains than controls with no significant gender difference. Serum oxytocin was higher in patients with OCD than in healthy controls, indicating a possible underlying pathophysiology of the illness. Also, there was a significant gender difference, with female patients having higher Serum oxytocin and symptoms severity being negatively associated. **Conclusions:** Taken together, these findings propose that OT may play a role in OCD pathophysiology with gender specificity. Also, OCD associated with insecure romantic attachment.