Exploring moderation effects of gender on symptom interactions in Borderline Personality Disorder

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Introduction

- Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a chronic psychiatric disorder characterized by symptoms such as impulsivity and affective instability (1).
- Previous research indicates effects of gender on BPD symptoms (2).

Research Question

How are interactions between symptoms of Borderline Personality Disorder moderated by gender?

Why network approach?

Allows for specific understanding of symptom interactions in BPD and how they are moderated by gender.

Methods

Data by **Richetin et al. (2017)** clinical BPD population (*N* = 96, 38 males, *M*age = 37.75)

NINE NODES:

- Efforts to avoid abandonment (ABA)
- Unstable relationships (REL)
- Identity disturbance (IDE)
- Impulsivity (IMP)
- (Para) Suicidal behaviour (SUI)
- Affective instability (AFF)
- Difficulty controlling anger (ANG)
- Dissociation and paranoid ideation (DIS)
- Chronic feelings of emptiness (EMP)

supplementary materials

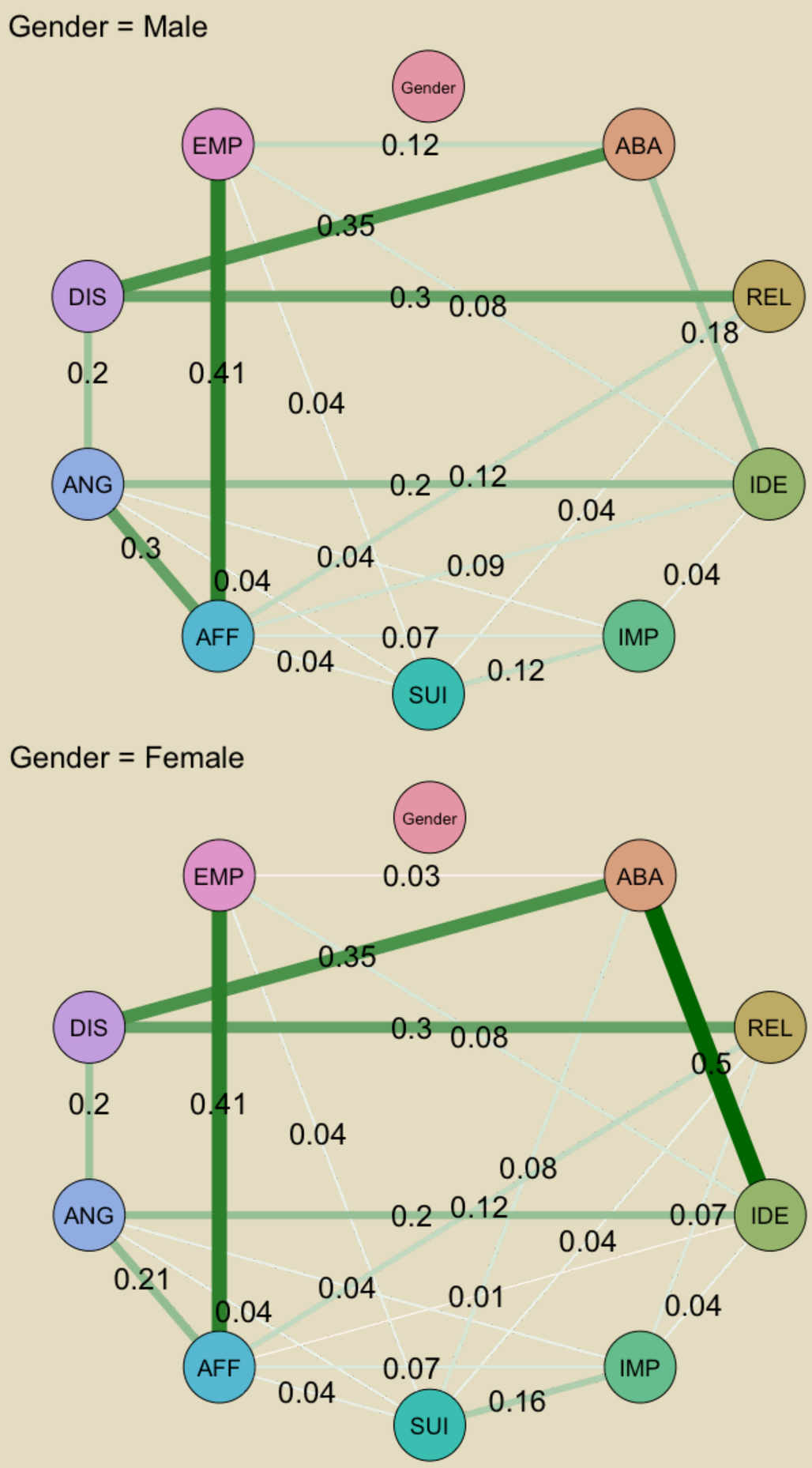
Moderated Network Model (MNM), moderator = gender; threshold = 'LW', lambdaSel = "CV", ruleReg = 'OR'
Centrality metrics: Expected influence, Betweenness, and Closeness
Stability of the network: bootstrapping - resample()

Discussion

There is preliminary evidence for gender moderating symptom interactions in BPD, primarily between abandonment and identity disturbance.

- Explorative findings - effects disappear if stricter criteria are applied. No implications for sex-specific diagnosis or intervention
- Low sample size resulting in low specificity and poor external validity
- Low stability measures for network, thus interpret results with caution. Future research should enlarge the sample size for a robust moderation network.

Results



- 7 pairwise interactions moderated by gender
- Strongest moderation effect on the interaction between ABA and IDE
- Low stability of variables

References
1) Kulacaoglu, F. & Kose, S. (2018). Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD): In the Midst of Vulnerability, Chaos, and Awe. Brain Sci, 8(11), 201. doi: 10.3390/brainsci8110201. PMID: 30453675
2) Sansone, R.A. & Sansone, L.A. (2011). Gender patterns in borderline personality disorder. Innov Clin Neurosci, 8(5), 16-20.