

An Examination of Parent-Youth Agreement on Psychopathology by a Structured Interview (Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version IV, DISC-IV) in a Clinic Sample

ABSTRACT

Objective

To examine the parent-youth agreement in the reporting of psychopathology in a clinic sample.

Method

76 parent-youth dyads (mean age of the youth was 13.1) attending child psychiatric clinic were interviewed twice at an interval of approximately 22 days apart, using the Cantonese DISC-IV.

Result

The kappa coefficients were poor in all diagnoses except for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). The poor concordance rate appeared not only in the diagnoses level but also in criteria and symptoms level. The inclusion of impairment did not improve the result. Retest did not improve the value either.

Conclusion

The present finding was in line with similar studies in other countries, thus information provided by both parents and youths must be treated with respect. In this study, unique report of good parent-youth agreement in OCD was a unique and interesting finding. Further research may help clarify some of the hypothesis and bring about better understanding of the phenomenon. There was also a strong implication that great discrepancy between the history obtained from parents and youths in clinic setting was expected, and clinicians must be aware of this.