

BRIEF REPORTS

Psychological pain and previous suicide attempts in young adults: Results with the Portuguese version of the Psychache Scale

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Abstract

Objectives: In this study, we tested whether the unbearable pain scale of the Psychache Scale provides value for the statistical prediction of a previous suicide attempt; we evaluated whether psychological pain has incremental value in the statistical prediction of a previous suicide attempt relative to the reporting of having had a psychiatric diagnosis, and we established a cut-score for the Psychache Scale.

Method: Two samples participated: a sample consisting of 1,460 young adults and a sample of 628 Portuguese community adults.

Results and Conclusions: Results demonstrated that unbearable pain is not a stronger predictor of a previous suicide attempt than is the bearable pain score of the Psychache Scale; that the total score of the Psychache scale provides an additional statistically significant contribution to the statistical prediction of a previous suicide attempt relative to the reporting of having had a psychiatric diagnosis.

KEYWORDS

cut-score, previous suicide attempt, Psychache Scale, psychiatric diagnosis, unbearable pain