

ASSESSING MENTALIZATION VIA SELF-REPORT MEASURES IN BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER: HOW SELF-MENTALIZING IMPACTS OTHER-MENTALIZING**Osman Demirci¹, B. Mert Savrun²**¹*Kafkas University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Kars, Türkiye*²*Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Türkiye*

BACKGROUND AND AIM: Mentalization, the ability to interpret intentional mental states, is an umbrella term that includes concepts such as theory of mind and emotional awareness. Evaluating the sub-dimensions of mentalization can be challenging. This study aims to comparatively investigate self- and other-mentalizing in patients with borderline personality disorder (BPD) and healthy controls.

METHODS: (Ethics Committee Approval must be obtained and the number should be specified). Our study included 82 BPD patients and 82 healthy controls matched for age, sex, education level. Mentalization Scale (MentS), Trait Meta-Mood Scale (TMMS), Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test (RMET) were used. Statistical analysis was performed with the SPSS v26. MODEL 16 in the PROCESS macro was used for moderated mediation analysis. Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa Clinical Research Ethics Committee approved this study with decision number 743969, dated 01.08.2023.

RESULTS: Significant relationships were found between MentS-Self and attention to feelings (AF) ($p=0.001$), clarity of feelings (CF) ($p<0.001$), and mood repair ($p<0.001$) subscales

of TMMS. In contrast, no significant relationship was found between MentS-Other and RMET ($p=0.231$). CF had a significant positive effect ($B=0.689$, 95% CI[0.038, 1.340]), whereas AF had a significant negative effect ($B=-0.578$, 95% CI[-1.118, -0.037]) on MentS-Other. The mediation of AF in the effect of MentS-Self on MentS-Other is partially moderated by MentS-Motivation ($B=0.004$, 95% CI[0.000-0.009]) in BPD patients.

CONCLUSIONS: Our findings show that RMET and MentS-Other may evaluate different areas of mentalizing regarding others based on behavioral and self-report characteristics, respectively. Self- and other-mentalizing interact with each other by their developmental nature. Also, other-mentalizing may be influenced by self-mentalizing due to asses via self-report. Furthermore, the intertwining of self- and other-mentalizing in BPD patients may be dissipating when the motivation for mentalizing is high.

Keywords: Self-mentalizing, other-mentalizing, mentalization, borderline personality disorder