Premorbid personality characteristics in older adults and DSM-IV criteria: An expert study on a informant questionnaire (HAP)

Authors: Harry Barendse, Gina Rossi & Bas van Alphen
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
Department of Clinical and Life Span Psychology

barendse.hpj@home.nl; grossi@vub.ac.be; b.van.alphen@mondriaan.eu
Research in the field of personality and ageing as well as the clinical personality assessment of older people is hampered by a lack of psychometric based instruments.

We present:

• An explanation of the problem
• Possible solutions
• The design and results of an expert study on the Hetero-Anamnestische Persoonlijkheidsvragenlijst (HAP) (Hetero-Anamnestic Personality questionnaire / Questionnaire Hétéro-Anamnestique de Personnalité)
• Intentions for follow-up studies
Classifying personality disorders in the elderly: what’s the problem?

- The presentation of personality disorders (PDs) is contextual (Mischel, 2004)

- The criteria of the DSM-IV-TR PDs reflect the context of younger adults (Balsis et al, 2007)

- A lack of validated instruments (Van Alphen et al, 2012)

- Lack of research into PD in the elderly due to lack of instruments (Oltmanns & Balsis, 2011)
Recently developed personality questionnaires validated for elderly:
Gerontological Personality disorders Scale (GPS; Van Alphen et al., 2006)
Hetero-Anamnestische Persoonlijkheidsvragenlijst (HAP; Barendse & Thissen, 2006)

Instruments for adults considered to be age neutral:
Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey et al, 2007)
Revised NEO Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R; Costa & McCrae, 1992)
A methodological variant for research into personality disorders in the elderly

- Create items that match both "young" and "old" (Oltmanns & Balsis, 2011)

- Assess the age neutrality with the Item Response Theory (IRT; Embretson & Reise, 2000) or differential item functioning (DIF) analysis (Van den Broeck et al., 2012)

- Generate prototypical personality disorders of the instrument (Lynam & Widiger, 2001)

- Validated the prototypes for personality disorders in clinical samples (Miller et al, 2004)

- The age neutral instrument can be used for (longitudinal) research on characteristics of personality disorders in later life (specific criteria and measuring instruments).
Properties of the HAP

- Informant questionnaire
- Behavior characteristics of the premorbid personality (and recently also the actual personality HAP-present tense: www.hapsite.nl)
- Validated for use with Dutch-speaking elderly (Barendse et al, 2013) and adults (Barendse & Thissen, 2006)
- 62 items, 2 control scales and 10 contentscales
From personality traits to personality disorders: premises

- Personality disorders are substantively linked to models of general personality (Larstone et al, 2002)
- All models from diverse theoretical perspectives can account for portions of variance in PD symptomatology (Miller et al, 2004)
Research questions

• To what extend are the items of the HAP age-neutral?

• Does the HAP detect all ten specific PDs of DSM-IV-TR, based on qualitative research?

• Does the HAP detect the clinical pictures of the ten PDs of DSM-IV-TR on qualitative research?
Delphi-research prototypical HAP personality disorders

- Start with Delphi-research as a possible prelude to further empirical research

- Expert-panel: 5 core members of the Dutch and Belgian research group Experts panel Personality & Older Adults (EPO).

- The expert evaluated every item of the HAP on basis of theoretical analysis of age-neutrality and the semantic and clinical relationships with the DSM PDs

- The results (agreement and disagreement) were anonymised submitted to the members of the panel

- Acceptance based on concensus
Delphi round 1

• Assessment of the age neutrality of each HAP item

• Assessment of semantic agreement (fully matching or opposite)

• Assessment of the clinical relationship of items on basis of the perception of the PD by the expert (fully matching or opposite)

• Expert-respons on a 10-point scale (0 completely disagree; 10 totally agree with the judgment of the researcher)

• In case of disagreement between researcher and expert the expert clarified the decision.
Delphi decisive round 2

• Presentation of the consensus results of the first round
• Presentation of the items on which no consensus was achieved together with the anonymized comments from the experts
• Expert-respons on a 10-point scale (0 completely disagree; 10 totally agree with the judgments of the experts)
• Decision criteria: Mean ≥8 en sd ≤ 2 is acception
Results

• 100% respons
• Age neutral: all 62 items from the HAP
• Semantic agreement with criteria of PD DSM-IV-TR: 38 items
  • Agreement with clinical picture of PD: 42 items
• Semantic and clinical picture (prototypical HAP PDs: 51 items
• The HAP represents sufficient criteria for 9 out of 10 DSM-IV-TR PS
• The HAP represents all the criteria of the antisocial and avoidant PD
• 1 criterion is missed at the paranoid, narcissistic, dependent and obsessive compulsive PS
• 2 criteria be missed at the schizoid and histrionic, borderline PS
• The schizotypal PS is not sufficient represented (only 4 out of 9 criteria)
## Results

The number of PD related items of the HAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PD</th>
<th>Semantic match</th>
<th>Clinical match</th>
<th>PROTOTYPICAL PD</th>
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<tr>
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<td>POS</td>
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<td>OC</td>
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Notes: Par, Paranoid; SZ, Schizoid; ST, Schizotypal; AS, Antisocial; BDL, Borderline; HIS, Histrionic; NAR, Narcissistic; AV, Avoidant; DEP, Dependent; OC Obsessive-Compulsive
HAP profile of Borderline personality disorder

Normscores

percentiel

POS NEG SOC ONZ KWE SOM WAN RIG PERF OMG ZELF GRIL

Zeer hoog
Hoog
Boven gemiddeld
Gemiddeld
Beneden gemiddeld
Laag
HAP PD count of prototype similarity scores borderline personality disorder

Note: Percentile of the raw score in relation to the maximum score
Intentions for follow-up studies

• Delphi research has limited value – further empirical research into age neutrality (IRT or DIF) and the criterion validity is necessary.

• For clinical use of the prototypical PS of the HAP a technique for scoring has to be developed

• The prototypical HAP PDs have to be validated

• When the items of the HAP are age neutral validation in a young adult population is possible
Conclusions

• The results of the delphi-study of the HAP prototypical personality disorders are promising: a short list represents all 10 DSM-IV-TR PDs

• Further research can contribute substantially to personality assessment in clinical practice and scientific research into personality disorders in the elderly.

This PowerPoint document can be viewed on www.hapsite.nl
Literature


