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Links between psychological sense of control and disturbed eating behavior in women with diabetes mellitus. Implications for predictors of metabolic control.

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Author information

Abstract

PURPOSE:

Eating disturbances and aspects of psychological control are both repeatedly cited as significant correlates of metabolic control in diabetes mellitus (DM), yet such findings are typically discussed in separate literatures and have been criticized for overreliance on outdated constructs of psychological control when more complex means of analysis are available.

METHODS:

Utilizing a multidimensional control inventory, this study investigates the relationship between eating disturbance and psychological sense of control, and assesses the utility of these two constructs in predicting metabolic control in 96 women recruited from a specialist diabetes clinic.

RESULTS:

Despite significantly overlapping relationships between these two predictor variables and metabolic control, it is control specific to the domain of interpersonal relationships, along with eating disturbance in the form of bulimia/food preoccupation, that independently predicts level of metabolic control.

CONCLUSIONS:

These findings have implications for the current form and content of psychological interventions in the management of DM.

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