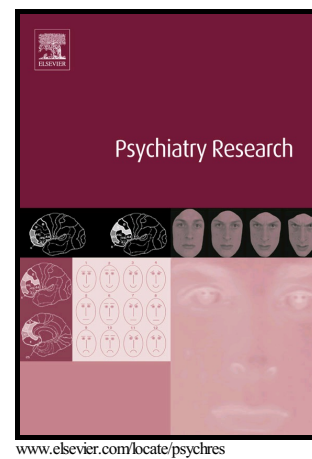


Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0165-1781(17)30455-9
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.11.010>
Reference: PSY10957

To appear in: *Psychiatry Research*

Received date: 14 March 2017
Revised date: 10 September 2017
Accepted date: 1 November 2017

Cite this article as: J.G. Weijers, P. Fonagy, E. Eurelings-Bontekoe, F. Termorshuizen, W. Viechtbauer and J.P. Selten, Mentalizing impairment as a mediator between reported childhood abuse and outcome in nonaffective psychotic disorder, *Psychiatry Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.11.010>

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Mentalizing impairment as a mediator between reported childhood abuse and outcome in nonaffective psychotic disorder.

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ABSTRACT

Reported childhood abuse has been linked to the severity of clinical symptoms and social dysfunction in non-affective psychotic disorder. Impaired mentalizing ability may be one of the mechanisms accounting for this effect. This study examined whether impaired mentalizing mediates the effect of reported childhood abuse on positive symptoms, negative symptoms, and social dysfunction. Eighty-seven patients with non-affective psychotic disorder were examined. Reported childhood abuse was measured using the Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse interview. Additionally, the Social Functioning Scale and the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale were used. The Hinting Task was used to measure mentalizing impairment. Reported childhood abuse was significantly related to the severity of positive and

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