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Early maladaptive schemas as mediators between childhood maltreatment and later psychological distress among Chinese college students

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Abstract: The aim of the current study was to examine whether early maladaptive schemas (EMSs) mediate the association between different kinds of childhood maltreatment and later psychopathology and the effect of different kinds of childhood maltreatment on psychological distress in later life. A total of 1,102 college students from two local universities participated in the study; their average age was 20.46 ± 1.13 years. The participants completed the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ), the Early Maladaptive Schemas Scale (EMSs), the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale (SDS), and the Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (SAS). Later psychological distress had a significant positive correlation with childhood EMSs, and almost all of the variables measuring childhood maltreatment had a significant positive correlation with EMSs. Structural equation modeling and mediation analyses were conducted

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