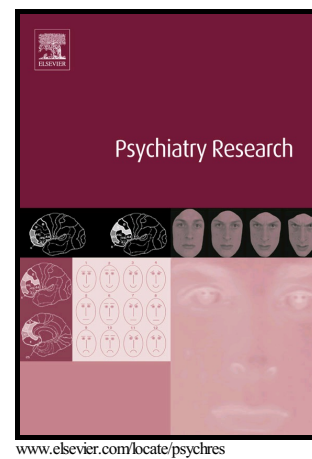


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The Roles of Shame and Depression

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Interpersonal Risk for Suicide in Social Anxiety: The Roles of Shame and Depression

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Abstract

Though research indicates that individuals with social anxiety disorder may experience elevated levels of thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness, two interpersonal risk factors critical for the development of suicidal desire, it remains unclear why. The current investigation considered how shame and depression may help to explain the relationship between social anxiety and interpersonal suicide risk factors. Participants ($N = 259$), recruited using Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk, completed measures of social anxiety, interpersonal suicide risk factors, shame, and depression. Social anxiety was associated with greater thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness. In addition, shame partially explained the association between social anxiety and thwarted belongingness, though the indirect effect was no longer significant after considering depression as a moderator. As predicted, shame was found to fully explain the association between social anxiety and perceived burdensomeness and this indirect effect was most pronounced among individuals with high comorbid depression. The clinical implications of these findings are discussed.

Keywords: Social Anxiety Disorder; Social Phobia; Suicide; Interpersonal; Shame

1. Introduction

Social anxiety disorder (SAD) is a serious and disabling disorder, which is highly prevalent and associated with significant psychosocial impairment. Lifetime prevalence for SAD is 13% making it the second most commonly occurring anxiety disorder in the United States (Kessler,

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