

Investigating the relevance of chest pain and distress to mental health

doi.org/10.56238/sevened2024.012-033

Fernando Filipe Paulos Vieira¹ and Francisco Lotufo Neto²

ABSTRACT

In the last decades, conceptual confusions have been observed in the context of the approach to the concepts of fear, panic, anxiety and anguish. Distress, which focuses on present events, is accompanied by a feeling of tightness or pain in the thoracic region and, as many patients with depression and anxiety report this experience, the feeling of distress has thus become the target of great concern clinic.

Keywords: Anguish, Chest pain, Anxiety, Depression, Mental health.

¹ Doctor student in Clinical Psychology at the University of São Paulo, specialist in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy at the Center for Studies in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Master in Clinical and Health Psychology at the Lusófona University of Porto (Portugal), graduated in Social and Work Psychology at the Higher Institute of Business and Tourism Sciences (Portugal).

² Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychology and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo.



INTRODUCTION

In the last decades, conceptual confusions have been observed in the context of the approach to the concepts of fear, panic, anxiety and anguish. Distress, which focuses on present events, is accompanied by a feeling of tightness or pain in the thoracic region and, as many patients with depression and anxiety report this experience, the feeling of distress has thus become the target of great concern. clinic.

OBJECTIVES

To investigate whether distress is more related to depression or anxiety, and to identify which variables or symptoms are more predictive of distress.

METHODS

This investigation consisted of an exploratory study in which the prevalence of anxiety in psychiatric patients and the discrimination of clinical differences were investigated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation concluded that distress is more associated with depression than with anxiety, being more frequent in females, and that the most frequent comorbidities among patients with distress are somatization, fears, depressive mood, gastrointestinal and neurovegetative symptoms.

CONCLUSION

The variables that were most related to distress were gender, reduced HAM-A score, BSI somatization, BSI hostility, BSI obsession compulsion, age, and MINI depression. Distress is closer to depression than anxiety.

7

REFERENCES

- 1. Assumpção Júnior, F. B. (1994). Phenomenology: the existentialist view. In R. Fráguas Júnior (Ed.), *Psychiatry and psychology in the general hospital: the anxiety disorders clinic* (pp. 17-19). São Paulo: Lemos Editorial.
- 2. Barbosa, E. S., Silva, E. L., Amorim, J. S., & Junior, J. I. G. (2024). Use of espinheira santa (Maytenus ilicifolia) in the treatment of patients with gastrointestinal disorders. *Brazilian Journal of Health Review, 7*(2), 01-11.
- 3. Canavarro, M. (2007). Psychopathological Symptoms Inventory (BSI) A critical review of studies carried out in Portugal. In M. R. Simões, C. Machado, M. M. Gonçalves, & L. S. Almeida (Eds.), *Psychological Assessment Instruments validated for the Portuguese population* (pp. 305-330). Coimbra: Quartet.
- 4. Catabriga, G. B., Diniz, L. R. D., Kataoka, T. D., & Silva, T. M. (2024). Fascicular ventricular tachycardia in a pediatric reference hospital. *Brazilian Journal of Health Review, 7*(2), 01-06.
- 5. Feray, S., Lemoine, A., Aveline, C., & Quesnel, C. (2023). Pain management after thoracic surgery or chest trauma. *Minerva Anestesiol, 89*(11), 1022-1033.
- 6. Gallani, M. C., Proulx-Belhumeur, A., Almeras, N., Després, J. P., Doré, M., & Giguère, J. F. (2020). Development and Validation of a Salt Food Frequency Questionnaire (FFQNa) and a Discretionary Salt Questionnaire (DSQ) for the Evaluation of Salt Intake among French-Canadian Population. *Nutrients, 13*(1), 105.
- 7. Gentil, V., & Gentil, M. (2009). Why anguish? *Journal of Psychopharmacology, 0*(00), 1-2.
- 8. Kaur, G., Oliveira-Gomes, D., Rivera, F. B., & Gulati, M. (2023). Chest Pain in Women: Considerations From the 2021 AHA/ACC Chest Pain Guideline. *Current Problems in Cardiology, 48*(7), 101697.
- 9. Knowles, K. A., & Olantunji, B. O. (2020). Specificity of trait anxiety in anxiety and depression: Meta-analysis of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory. *Clinical Psychology Review, 82*, 101928.
- 10. Koskinen, M. K., & Hovatta, I. (2023). Genetic insights into the neurobiology of anxiety. *Trends in Neurosciences, 46*(4), 318-331.
- 11. MacIntyre, M. M., Zare, M., & Williams, M. T. (2023). Anxiety-Related Disorders in the Context of Racism. *Current Psychiatry, 25*(2), 31-43.
- 12. Melzoff, J. (2001). *Critical Thinking About Research: Psychology and related fields*. American Psychological Association.
- 13. Muller, R., Ebbo, M., Habert, P., Daniel, L., Briantais, A., Chanez, P., Gaubert, J. Y., & Schleiniger, N. (2023). Thoracic manifestations of IgG4-related disease. *Respirology, 28*(2), 120-131.
- 14. Scaini, C. R., Vieira, I. S., Machado, R., Cardoso, T. A., Mondin, T., Souza, L., Molina, M. L., Jansen, K., & Silva, R. A. (2022). Immature defense mechanisms predict poor response to psychotherapy in major depressive patients with comorbid cluster B personality disorder. *Brazilian Journal of Psychiatry, 44*(5), 469-477.



- 15. Sheehan, D., Lecrubier, Y., Sheehan, K., Amorim, P., Janavs, J., Weiller, E., Herguetta, T., Baker, R., & Dunbar, G. (1998). The Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.): the development and validation of a structured diagnostic psychiatric interview for DSM-IV and ICD-10. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 59*, Suppl 20, 22-33.
- 16. Swenne, C. A., & Ter Haar, C. C. (2023). Context-independent identification of myocardial ischemia in the prehospital ECG of chest pain patients. *Journal of Electrocardiology, 82*, 34-41.