The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients

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ABSTRACT
Objective: Both the distressed (Type D) personality (i.e. the combination of negative affectivity and social inhibition traits) and dysfunctional parenting styles are associated with anxiety and depression. As parenting styles have been related to personality development, dysfunctional parenting styles may also be associated with Type D personality. We examined whether remembered parenting was associated with anxiety and depression in cardiac patients and whether Type D personality mediated this relationship.

Methods: Our sample comprised 435 patients treated with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and 123 patients with congestive heart failure (CHF). Patients completed the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, Type D Scale (DS14), and Remembered Relationship with Parents (RRP10) scale.

Results: Remembered parenting was significantly associated with higher anxiety and depression levels and Type D personality. In multivariable linear regression analyses, Type D personality accounted for 25–29% of the variance in anxiety and 23–46% of the variance in depression, while remembered parenting was no longer significantly associated with these domains. Sobel tests and bootstrapping indicated that Type D personality mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression.

Conclusion: Type D personality mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression in both PCI and CHF patients.

Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M.,
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relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients.
Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

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Daemen, J., & Erdman, R. A. M. (2004). Type D personality predicts death or
myocardial infarction after bare metal stent or sirolimus-eluting stent implantation:
A rapamycin-eluting stent evaluated at rotterdam cardiology hospital (RESEARCH)
doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2004.05.064), as also confirmed in recent meta-analyses
A general propensity to psychological distress affects cardiovascular outcomes.
Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes, 3, 546–557.
doi:10.1161/circoutcomes.109.934406; Versteeg, Spek, Pedersen, & Denollet,
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of prospective studies. European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention &

Type D individuals experience a broad range of negative emotions and tend to inhibit these
assessment of negative affectivity, social inhibition, and Type D personality.
Psychosomatic Medicine, 67, 89–97. doi:10.1097/01.psy.0000149256.81953.49;
personality here to stay? Emerging evidence across cardiovascular-disease patient
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Several links have been identified that may explain the association between Type D
personality and adverse health outcomes in cardiac patients and include both
behavioural and biological pathways. Type D patients are less likely to engage in
optimal health-related behaviours, such as exercising and quitting smoking (Pedersen
here to stay? Emerging evidence across cardiovascular-disease patient groups.
Current Cardiology Reviews, 2, 205–213.; Steptoe & Molloy, 200757. Steptoe, A., &
doi:10.1136/hrt.2006.109355; Williams, O’Connor, Grubb, & O’Carroll, 201163.
Williams, L., O’Connor, R. C., Grubb, N., & O’Carroll, R. (2011). Type D
personality predicts poor medication adherence in myocardial infarction patients.
Psychology & Health, 26, 703–712. doi:10.1080/08870446.2010.488265) and are
also less likely to consult their health care provider despite worrying more about their
symptoms (Schiffer, Denollet, Widdershoven, Hendriks, & Smith, 200752. Schiffer,
Failure to consult for symptoms of heart failure in patients with a type-D personality.
Heart, 93, 814–818. doi:10.1136/hrt.2006.102822).

Biological pathways include immune activation (Conraads et al., 200666. Conraads, V. M., Denollet, J., De Clerck,
L. S., Stevens, W. J., Brutsaert, D., & Vrints, C. J. (2006). Type D personality is
associated with increased levels of tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-a and TNF-a
Cytokines and immune activation in systolic heart failure: The role of Type D
personality. Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, 17, 304–309. doi:10.1016/s0889-
1591(03)00606-6), dysfunctional stress reactivity (Habra, Linden, Anderson, &
Weinberg, 200321. Habra, M. E., Linden, W., Anderson, J. C., & Weinberg, J.
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relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients.
Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

(2003). Type D personality is related to cardiovascular and neuroendocrine
doi:10.1016/s0022-3999(02)00553-6; Williams, O’Carroll, & O’Connor, 200962.
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doi:10.1080/08870440701885616

Type D personality and
cardiovascular and neuroendocrine
Williams, L., O’Carroll, R. E., & O’Connor, R. C. (2009). Type D personality and
doi:10.1080/08870440701885616

coronary syndrome. Psychosomatic Medicine, 70, 863–868.
doi:10.1097/PSY.0b013e3181842e0c; Whitehead, Perkins-Porras, Strike, Magid, &
syndrome patients with type-D personality. Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 62,
However, knowledge of the mechanisms involved in the development of Type D
personality itself is largely lacking. A recent study suggested that the characteristics
of Type D personality may in part be attributed to genetic factors, as the heritability
for Type D was found to be 52% (Kupper, Boomsma, de Geus, Denollet, &
Willemsen, 201127. Kupper, N., Boomsma, D. I., de Geus, E. J. C., Denollet, J., &
Willemsen, G. (2011). Nine-year stability of Type D personality: Contributions of
genes and environment. Psychosomatic Medicine, 73, 75–82.
doi:10.1097/PSY.0b013e3181fde54).

Regarding environmental factors, remembered parenting may be of importance, as dysfunctional parenting styles, like
overprotection or coldness, have been related to neuroticism (Furukawa, 199219.
Furukawa, T. (1992). Perceived parental rearing, personality and mental status in
Recalled parent-child relations and adult personality. Journal of Personality, 56,
417–434. doi:10.1111/j.1467-6494.1988.tb00894.x; Reti et al., 200249. Reti, I. M.,
Influences of parenting on normal personality traits. Psychiatry Research, 111, 55–
64. doi:10.1016/s0165-1781(02)00128-2), NA (Aron, Aron, & Davies, 20051. Aron,
temperamental sensitivity and an adverse childhood environment. Personality and
shyness: The interaction of temperamental sensitivity and an adverse childhood
doi:10.1177/0146167204271419). These personality traits are closely related to the
two core components of the Type D construct.
In addition, previous studies have indicated that dysfunctional parenting styles are
associated with an increased risk of anxiety and depression (Denollet, Smoldersen,
vanden Broek, & Pedersen, 200712. Denollet, J., Smoldersen, K. G. E., van den
parents (RRP10) scale: Two-factor model and association with adult depressive
symptoms. Journal of Affective Disorders, 100, 179–189.
doi:10.1016/j.jad.2006.10.009; Kendler, Myers, & Prescott, 200026. Kendler, K. S.,
Myers, J., & Prescott, C. A. (2000). Parenting and adult mood, anxiety and
Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M., Domburg, R.T. van, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333


Although both dysfunctional parenting styles and Type D personality have been related to adverse cardiovascular outcomes, to date no study examined this mediation model in cardiac patients. Hence, the aim of the current study was to examine whether remembered parenting is associated with anxiety and depression in cardiac patients, and whether Type D personality mediates this relationship. To examine whether the effects differ between stages of heart disease, we used two cohorts of cardiac patients, patients treated with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and congestive heart failure (CHF) patients.

**METHODS**

**Participants and procedure**

The study sample included 558 cardiac patients. The first cohort comprised 435 consecutive patients treated with PCI to reflect early-stage heart disease. Patients were treated with PCI between February 2, 2006 and September 14, 2006 at the Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In all patients, the paclitaxel-eluting stent was used as the default strategy. No exclusion criteria were applied, and all PCI patients were eligible for enrolment regardless of their anatomical, clinical or psychological presentation. One-month post-PCI, patients were asked to complete a set of standardised and validated psychological questionnaires, as preliminary evidence suggests that psychological assessment at the time of the index PCI may be less optimal than one month post-procedure (Poston, Haddock, Conard, Jones, & Spertus, 2003). Poston, W. S. C., Haddock, C. K., Conard, M. W., Jones, P., & Spertus, J. (2003). Assessing depression in the cardiac patient. Behavior Modification, 27, 26–36. doi:10.1177/0145445502238691).

To represent end-stage heart disease, the second cohort comprised 123 patients receiving a first-time cardiac resynchronisation therapy defibrillator (CRT-D) between January 21, 2009 and August 9, 2010 at the University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands. All patients participated in the ongoing ‘The influence of PSYchological factors on health outcomes in HEART failure patients treated with CRT: A prospective, single-centre, observational study (PSYHEART-CRT)’. The PSYHEART-CRT study was primarily designed to examine whether psychological factors moderate the effect of objectively assessed CRT response on patient reported outcomes in CHF patients. Exclusion criteria were age < 18 or > 85 years, a history of psychiatric illness other than affective/anxiety disorders, cognitive impairments (e.g. dementia), on the waiting list for heart transplantation, and insufficient knowledge of the Dutch language. We did not exclude patients with a history of affective/anxiety disorders, as we are particularly interested in patients with increased levels of depression and anxiety, irrespective of the fact if this has been diagnosed as a disorder. One day prior to implantation, patients were asked to complete a set of standardised and validated psychological questionnaires.
The current study was approved by the medical ethics committee of the respective hospitals and was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration (Goodyear, Krleza-Jeric, & Lemmens, 2007). The Declaration of Helsinki. BMJ, 335, 624–625. doi:10.1136/bmj.39339.610000.BE. All patients provided informed consent.

MEASURES

Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of PCI patients

Socio-demographic characteristics included gender and age. Clinical characteristics included multi-vessel disease (multi-vessel disease vs. single-vessel disease/no vessel disease), body mass index (BMI), cardiac history (i.e. previous myocardial infarction [MI], coronary artery bypass graft [CABG] surgery, or PCI), indication for PCI (stable angina, unstable angina, or MI), CAD risk factors (i.e. hypertension, diabetes mellitus, family history of CAD, and self-reported smoking) and prescribed cardiac discharge medications (i.e. aspirin, ACE-inhibitors, beta-blockers, calcium-antagonists, diuretics, oral nitrates, and statins). Information on socio-demographic and clinical characteristics was obtained from patients’ medical records.

Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of CHF patients

Socio-demographic characteristics included gender and age. Clinical characteristics included aetiology (ischaemic vs. non-ischaemic), implantable cardioverter defibrillator indication (primary vs. secondary prevention), New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), BMI, cardiac history (i.e. previous MI, CABG, or PCI), smoking, and prescribed cardiac medication at hospital admission for CRT-D implantation. Information on socio-demographic and clinical characteristics was obtained from patients’ medical records.

Type D personality

In both cohorts, Type D personality was assessed with the 14-item Type D scale (DS14) that comprises two subscales, NA (e.g. I often feel unhappy) and SI (e.g. I am a closed kind of person), each consisting of 7 items. Items are scored on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 0 (false) to 4 (true). Based on findings from Item Response Theory (Emons, Meijer, & Denollet, 2007), Negative affectivity and social inhibition in cardiovascular disease: Evaluating Type-D personality and its assessment using item response theory. Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 63, 27–39. doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2007.03.010), a standardised cut-off score ≥10 on both subscales is used to identify individuals with a Type D personality. However, previous studies indicated that Type D personality is better represented as a continuous construct (Ferguson et al., 2009). A taxometric analysis of Type-D personality. Psychosomatic Medicine, 71, 981–986. doi:10.1097/PSY.0b013e3181bd888b) and could be derived from the interaction effect of the NA and SI subscales (Denollet, Pedersen, Ong et al., 2006).
(2007). Adverse clinical events in patients treated with sirolimus-eluting stents: The impact of Type D personality. European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, 14, 135–140. doi:10.1097/HJR.0b013e328045c282 00149831-200702000-00020 [pii]; Whitehead et al., 2007. Whitehead, D. L., Perkins-Porras, L., Strike, P. C., Magid, K., & Steptoe, A. (2007). Cortisol awakening response is elevated in acute coronary syndrome patients with type-D personality. Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 62, 419–425. http://dx.doi.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2006.11.005). In the current study, we used this interaction term as a continuous measure of Type D personality in all analyses. In the cohort of PCI patients, Cronbach’s alphas were .86 for NA and .85 for SI, whereas in the cohort of CHF patients, Cronbach’s alphas were .90 for NA and .87 for SI.

**Anxiety and depression**

Remembered parenting

The Remembered Relationship with Parents (RRP) scale was used to retrospectively assess perceptions of parental care (Denollet et al., 2007). The 10-item remembered relationship with parents (RRP10) scale: Two-factor model and association with adult depressive symptoms. Journal of Affective Disorders, 100, 179–189. doi:10.1016/j.jad.2006.10.009). This self-report instrument assesses caregiving processes with an emphasis on deficiencies in empathic relationships between parents and child. Respondents are asked to describe the relationship with their parents while growing up, on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 0 (false) to 4 (true). The RRP consists of two subscales, Alienation from parents and Control by parents. Alienation refers to respondents’ perception of dysfunctional communication and intimacy with their parents (e.g. I often felt that my parents did not understand me), while Control refers to the respondent’s perception of an overprotective parenting style (e.g. I wished my parents would worry less about me). Remembered alienation and control were assessed with reference to the father and mother separately. However, in the current study, the combined score of both parents was used to assess Alienation and Control (score range [0–40]). A high score on both parenting scales indicate worse remembered parenting while growing up. Because of the non-pathological focus, the RRP is suitable for use in non-psychiatric populations and in epidemiological and clinical research (van den Broek et al., 2010). Type D personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and perceived health. Psychosomatics, 51, 216–224. doi:10.1176/appi.psy.51.3.216). The RRP has a good factor structure, internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha = .83–.86), and convergent validity with the Parenting Bonding Instrument (PBI) (Denollet et al., 2007). The 10-item remembered relationship with parents (RRP10) scale: Two-factor model and association with adult depressive symptoms. Journal of Affective Disorders, 100, 179–189. doi:10.1016/j.jad.2006.10.009; Parker, Tupling, & Brown, 1979). A Parental Bonding Instrument. British Journal of Medical Psychology, 52, 1–10. doi:10.1111/j.2044-8341.1979.tb02487.x; van den Broek et al., 2010). Type D personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and perceived health. Psychosomatics, 51, 216–224. doi:10.1176/appi.psy.51.3.216). In the current study, in the cohort of PCI patients, Cronbach’s alpha was .90, whereas in the cohort of CHF patients, Cronbach’s alpha was .89.

Statistical analyses

Before investigating whether Type D personality, as represented by the interaction term of NA and SI, mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression, we examined whether the assumptions underlying the mediation model according to Baron and Kenny (1986). The moderator–mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: Conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 51, 1173–1182.) were fulfilled: (1) remembered
parenting had to be related to anxiety and depression; (2) remembered parenting had to be associated with the mediator Type D personality; and (3) Type D personality had to be associated with anxiety and depression, adjusted for remembered parenting (Figure 1). Type D personality was considered a mediator if it accounted for a significant part of the relation between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression (Baron & Kenny, 1986). The assumptions for mediation were tested with a series of linear regression models. In general, with mediation, we mean that the direct effect of remembered parenting on psychological distress might be weakened by an indirect effect via Type D personality.

![FIGURE 1]

To allow for a more direct test of the mediation effect, Sobel tests were used (Sobel, 1982). Sobel tests, which are products of coefficient tests for the mediating variable effect, are used to test the significance of the mediating variable effect by dividing the estimate of the mediating variable effect by its standard error and comparing this value to a standard normal distribution. In contrast with causal step methods (e.g. the Baron and Kenny approach), Sobel tests are less prone to Type I errors and have more statistical power to detect mediation when present. A comparison of methods to test mediation and other intervening variable effects. Psychological Methods, 7, 83–104.). To further test the robustness of our mediation model bootstrapping, using 5000 sample replicates, was performed. Bootstrapping is especially suitable for small sample sizes and avoids the assumption that the indirect effects are normally distributed. Indirect effects are unstandardised coefficients, which are significant when the 95% confident interval does not contain zero.

In additional multivariable linear regression analyses, we examined whether Type D personality remained significantly associated with anxiety and depression, adjusting for socio-demographic and clinical variables. In the PCI cohort, we adjusted for all baseline characteristics listed in Table 1, except for aspirin as almost all patients (i.e. 95%) were prescribed aspirin. In the CHF cohort, we adjusted for gender, age, NYHA functional class, LVEF, aetiology and diabetes mellitus. Covariates were selected a priori based on the literature (Babyak, 2004). What you see may not be what you get: A brief, nontechnical introduction to overfitting in regression-type models. Psychosomatic Medicine, 66, 411–421. doi:10.1097/01.psy.0000127692.23278.a9; Freedland et al., 2005. Freedland, K. E., Babyak, M. A., McMahon, R. J., Jennings, J. R., Golden, R. N., & Sheps, D. S. (2005). Statistical guidelines for psychosomatic medicine. Psychosomatic Medicine, 67, 167. doi:10.1097/01.psy.0000157600.76469.9a; Peduzzi, Concato, Kemper, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

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**[TABLE 1]**


**RESULTS**

**Characteristics of PCI patients**

Of the 869 eligible patients treated with PCI in the study period, 29 died within 4 weeks. The remaining 840 were asked to participate in the study, of which 297 did not return the questionnaire at baseline (64.6% response rate). Of the remaining 543 patients, 108 patients did not complete the HADS, DS14, or RRP10. Final analyses were based on data from 435 patients (77.5% men; mean age: 62.6 ± 10.7 years, range [30–91] years). In the current study, the mean scores for NA and SI were 8.2 ± 6.2 and 9.1 ± 6.4, respectively. Patient characteristics for the total sample of PCI patients are presented in Table 1.

**Characteristics of CHF patients**

Of the 182 eligible patients implanted with a CRT-D in the study period, 35 refused to participate and 8 patients did not return the questionnaire at baseline (76.4% response rate). Of the remaining 139 patients, 16 patients did not complete the HADS, DS14, or RPP10. Final analyses were based on 123 patients (71.5% men; mean age: 65.3 ± 10.5 years, range [30–84] years). In the current study, the mean scores for NA and SI were 8.4 ± 6.4 and 9.1 ± 5.8, respectively. Patient characteristics for the total sample of CHF patients are presented in Table 1.

**Type D, parenting and distress in PCI patients**

In PCI patients, we tested the hypothesis that Type D personality mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression, using a series of linear regression analysis. Results indicated that parental alienation and control were associated with both more anxiety ($p \leq .001$) and depression ($p \leq .001$) (Table 2). The second assumption underlying the mediation model was also fulfilled: Parental alienation and control were significantly related to Type D personality ($p \leq$
Multivariable linear regression analysis showed that Type D personality was significantly associated with both higher anxiety \( (p \leq .001) \) and depression \( (p \leq .001) \), when adjusting for remembered Alienation and Control (Table 2). Once Type D personality was included in the model, the effect of the Remembered Relationship with Parents on anxiety and depression was no longer significant, indicating mediation.

**Table 2**

Sobel tests confirmed that Type D personality significantly mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety \( (z' = 7.58, p < .001 \text{ for Alienation, and } z' = 6.88, p < .001 \text{ for Control, respectively}) \) and depression \( (z' = 7.20, p < .001 \text{ for Alienation, and } z' = 6.47, p < .001 \text{ for Control, respectively}) \). In addition, bootstrapping further confirmed the mediation model with significant indirect effects of Type D personality on the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety \( (\text{indirect effect} = .08, SE = .01, 95\% \text{ CI } [.06-.12]) \) and depression \( (\text{indirect effect} = .08, SE = .01, 95\% \text{ CI } [.06-.11]) \). In extended multivariable linear regression analyses, Type D personality remained significantly associated with higher levels of anxiety and depression \( (\beta = .56, p \leq .001, \Delta R^2 = .26 \text{ and } \beta = .54, p < .001, \Delta R^2 = .24, \text{ respectively}) \), adjusting for socio-demographic and clinical variables. Female gender \( (\beta = .11, p = .002) \) and diabetes mellitus \( (\beta = .09, p = .038) \) were associated with higher levels of anxiety, whereas higher age \( (\beta = .12, p = .007) \), diabetes mellitus \( (\beta = .11, p = .020) \), and smoking \( (\beta = .12, p = .014) \) were associated with higher levels of depression. In all multivariable linear regression models, the assumption of multicollinearity was met.

**Type D, parenting and distress in CHF patients**

In CHF patients, parental alienation and control were significantly associated with more anxiety \( (p \leq .001) \) and depression \( (p \leq .01) \) (Table 2). Parental alienation and control were also significantly related to Type D personality \( (p \leq .001) \) (Table 2). Once again, Type D personality was significantly associated with both higher anxiety \( (p \leq .001) \) and depression \( (p \leq .001) \) when adjusted for parental Alienation and Control (Table 3). Once Type D personality was included in the model, the effect of remembered parenting on anxiety and depression was no longer significant, indicating mediation.

**Table 3**

Sobel tests confirmed that Type D mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety \( (z = 3.67, p \leq .001 \text{ for Alienation, and } z = 3.37, p \leq .001 \text{ for Control, respectively}) \) and depression \( (z = 3.67, p \leq .001 \text{ for Alienation, and } z = 3.58, p \leq .001 \text{ for Control, respectively}) \). In addition, bootstrapping further confirmed the mediation model with significant indirect effects of Type D personality on the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety \( (\text{indirect effect} = .09, SE = .03, 95\% \text{ CI } [.05-.15]) \) and depression \( (\text{indirect effect} = .09, SE = .03, 95\% \text{ CI } [.05-.11]) \).
Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M., Domburg, R.T. van, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

In extended multivariable regression analyses, Type D personality remained significantly associated with higher levels of anxiety and depression ($\beta = .45, p \leq .001, \Delta R^2 = .16$ and $\beta = .57, p \leq .001, \Delta R^2 = .26$, respectively), adjusting for remembered parenting, age, gender, NYHA functional class, LVEF, aetiology, and diabetes. None of the socio-demographic and clinical variables were significantly associated with anxiety, whereas higher NYHA functional class was associated with higher levels of depression ($\beta = .25, p = .002$). In all multivariable linear regression models, the assumption of multicollinearity was met.

**DISCUSSION**

To our knowledge, this is the first study to report on the role of Type D personality as a mediator between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression in cardiac patients. In both PCI and CHF patients, remembered dysfunctional parenting was significantly associated with higher anxiety and depression levels, as well as with Type D personality. In multivariable linear regression analyses, Type D personality accounted for 25–29% of the variance in anxiety and 23–46% of the variance in depression, while remembered parenting was no longer significantly associated with any of these symptoms. Sobel tests and bootstrapping confirmed the finding that Type D personality mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression in both PCI and CHF patients.


A paucity of studies have examined the association between parenting styles and personality development, showing that dysfunctional parenting styles, like overprotection and coldness, are related to the development of for example neuroticism (Furukawa, 1992). Furukawa, T. (1992). Perceived parental rearing, personality and mental status in Japanese adolescents. Journal of Adolescence, 15, 317–322. doi:10.1016/0140-1971(92)90033-2; McCrae & Costa, 1988. McCrae,
Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M., Domburg, R.T. van, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333


Information on genetic and environmental factors that contribute to the development of Type D personality is important for developing appropriate intervention trials that target this personality disposition in patients with established cardiovascular disease. To our knowledge, only one recent psychological intervention trial in Dutch community residents specifically targeted Type D personality. In this study, a mindfulness-based stress reduction intervention was designed to reduce the NA and SI characteristics of Type D personality. After the 8-week intervention, the intervention group showed a significant decrease in both NA and SI dimensions, although change in Type D caseness did not differ between groups (Nyklicek, van Beugen, & Denollet, 2012. Nyklicek, I., van Beugen, S., & Denollet, J. (2012). Effects of mindfulness-based stress reduction on distressed (Type D) personality traits: A randomized controlled trial. Journal of Behavioral Medicine, 36, 361–370. doi:10.1007/s10907-012-9431-3). In post-MI patients, a psychological intervention trial has been planned to evaluate the effect of short-term psychotherapy on incident CAD and levels of psychological distress, including Type D personality (Roncella et al., 2009. Roncella, A., Giornetti, A., Cianfrocca, C., Pasceri, V., Pelliccia, F., & Denollet, J. (2009). Rationale and trial design of a randomized, controlled study on short-term psychotherapy after acute myocardial infarction: The STEP-IN-AMI trial (short term psychotherapy in acute myocardial infarction). Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine, 10, 947–452. doi:10.2459/JCM.0b013e32832fb477). Results of the current study suggest that when designing a behavioural intervention for Type D patients, it may also be important to take remembered parenting into account.

The limitations of the current study must be acknowledged. First, the cross-sectional study design does not allow for causal inferences about the relationship between
remembered parenting, Type D personality, and anxiety and depression. A so-called recall bias may arise, as it is possible that childhood memories are influenced by the patient’s personality and current feelings of distress. For example, given the high levels of SI in Type D patients, these patients may report that they feel more alienated from their parents, as compared with patients with lower levels of SI. This should be investigated further. Second, patients who indicated that there was only maternal or paternal parenting were excluded from the analyses. This was the case in 7.7% (42/543) of PCI patients and 10.1% (14/139) of CHF patients. Third, data on Type D personality and anxiety and depression were obtained from self-report questionnaires, and therefore, common method variance may have contributed to the significant results. However, we only used validated and reliable questionnaires to assess the psychological constructs studied, which have been used frequently in different cardiovascular patient groups (Haworth, Moniz-Cook, Clark, Wang, & Cleland, 2007). Haworth, J. E., Moniz-Cook, E., Clark, A. L., Wang, M., & Cleland, J. G. F. (2007). An evaluation of two self-report screening measures for mood in an out-patient chronic heart failure population. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 22, 1147–1153. doi:10.1002/gps.1807; Pedersen et al., 2006. Pedersen, S. S., Ong, A. T. L., Sonnenschein, K., Serruys, P. W., Erdman, R. A. M., & van Domburg, R. T. (2006). Type D personality and diabetes predict the onset of depressive symptoms in patients after percutaneous coronary intervention. American Heart Journal, 151, 367.e361–367.e366. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2005.08.012


In conclusion, the current study showed that Type D personality mediated the relationship between remembered parenting and anxiety and depression in patients treated with PCI and CHF patients. Hence, in psychological intervention trials targeting Type D personality, it may be important to address remembered parenting. Future studies using a longitudinal design are warranted to examine the directionality of the relationship between remembered parenting, Type D personality and psychological distress in cardiac patients.

**FUNDING**

This research was supported with a VIDI grant (91710393) to Prof. Susanne S. Pedersen from The Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMW), The Hague, the Netherlands.
Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M., Domburg, R.T. van, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

NOTES

Notes: a Results are presented as n (%) unless otherwise stated.
b Previous myocardial infarction (MI), percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG).
BMI = Body mass index (kg/m²), CAD = Coronary artery disease, CRT-D = cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator, LVEF = Left ventricular ejection fraction, NYHA = New York Heart Association.

REFERENCES


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TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1. Mediation model for parental alienation and control, Type D personality and anxiety and depression.
Damen, N.L., Versteeg, H., Helmond, S.J. van, Jaegere, P.P. de, Geuns, R.J.M. van, Meine, M.M., Domburg, R.T. van, Pedersen, S.S. The distressed (Type D) personality mediates the relationship between remembered parenting and psychological distress in cardiac patients. Psychology & Health: 2014, 29(3), 318-333

### Table 1. Patient characteristics for the total sample *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-demographic characteristics</th>
<th>PCI patients (N = 435)</th>
<th>CHF patients (N = 123)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>336 (77.4)</td>
<td>88 (71.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.6 (10.7)</td>
<td>65.3 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical characteristics</th>
<th>PCI patients (N = 435)</th>
<th>CHF patients (N = 123)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac history</td>
<td>164 (38.5)</td>
<td>59 (48.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>208 (53.1)</td>
<td>47 (38.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>76 (17.5)</td>
<td>24 (19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reported smoking</td>
<td>114 (29.1)</td>
<td>17 (13.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>27.3 (3.9)</td>
<td>27.3 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-vessel disease</td>
<td>221 (51.0)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of CAD</td>
<td>208 (53.1)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indication for PCI</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable angina</td>
<td>174 (40.7)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable angina</td>
<td>110 (25.8)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>143 (33.5)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic etiology</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>64 (52.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRT-D for primary prevention</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>98 (79.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA functional class III or IV</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>99 (80.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVEF, mean (SD)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>24.6 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiac medication</th>
<th>PCI patients (N = 435)</th>
<th>CHF patients (N = 123)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin</td>
<td>423 (97.7)</td>
<td>38 (30.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE-inhibitors</td>
<td>70 (16.2)</td>
<td>82 (66.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-blockers</td>
<td>302 (69.7)</td>
<td>94 (76.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium-antagonists</td>
<td>5 (1.2)</td>
<td>9 (7.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diuretics</td>
<td>4 (.9)</td>
<td>105 (85.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral/innitrates</td>
<td>61 (14.1)</td>
<td>21 (17.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statins</td>
<td>362 (83.6)</td>
<td>74 (60.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: *Results are presented as n (%) unless otherwise stated.

*Previous myocardial infarction (MI), percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG).

BMI = Body mass index (kg/m²), CAD = Coronary artery disease, CRT-D = cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator, LVEF = Left ventricular ejection fraction, NYHA = New York Heart Association.
Table 2. Associations between parental alienation and control, anxiety and depression and Type D personality (assumptions 1 and 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type D Personality</th>
<th>CHF patients</th>
<th>PCI patients</th>
<th>Type D Personality</th>
<th>CHF patients</th>
<th>PCI patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>$\beta$</td>
<td>$\Delta R^2$</td>
<td>$p$</td>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>$\beta$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental alienation</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$0.52$</td>
<td>$0.52$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental control</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$-0.54$</td>
<td>$-0.54$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Associations between Type D personality and anxiety and depression, adjusted for parental alienation and control (assumption 3).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type D personality</th>
<th>CHF patients</th>
<th>PCI patients</th>
<th>Type D personality</th>
<th>CHF patients</th>
<th>PCI patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>$\beta$</td>
<td>$\Delta R^2$</td>
<td>$p$</td>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>$\beta$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type D personality</td>
<td>$0.56$</td>
<td>$0.04$</td>
<td>$&gt;0.01$</td>
<td>$-0.56$</td>
<td>$-0.04$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental alienation</td>
<td>$-0.28$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
<td>$-0.28$</td>
<td>$&lt;0.01$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental control</td>
<td>$0.34$</td>
<td>$0.03$</td>
<td>$0.01$</td>
<td>$0.34$</td>
<td>$0.03$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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