

Buchheim, A., George, C., Liebl, V., Moser, A., Benecke, C. (2007). Mimische Affektivität von Patientinnen mit einer Borderline-Persönlichkeitsstörung während des Adult Attachment Projective (Affective facial behavior of borderline patients during the Adult Attachment Projective). *Zeitschrift Psychosomatische Medizin und Psychotherapie (Journal of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy)*, 53, 339-354.

**Author Abstract:**

In this study we investigated for the first time the facial activity of patients with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) compared to healthy controls during administration of the Adult Attachment Projective (AAP). The affective facial behavior during the AAP interview in 15 female patients with BPD and 14 healthy women was coded using EMFACS. Affective facial behavior was compared between diagnostic and attachment groups (resolved versus unresolved trauma). Consistent with previous adult attachment studies, there was a significantly higher number of BPD patients with unresolved attachment. The BPD patients showed significantly more disgust during the attachment task as compared to controls. The results demonstrate validity for the AAP as a representational measure of adult attachment and are discussed in the context of frequent traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse and emotional neglect suffered by BPD patients through their attachment figures.