# SUPPLEMENT

**to**

**Sex-dependent differences in vulnerability to early risk factors for posttraumatic stress disorder: Results from the AURORA study**

**Supplement 1:** Detailed information on measures included in this study

**Supplement 2:** Supplementary Tables

**eTable 1** Risk factor characteristics by sex

**eTable 2** Risk factor characteristics by trauma type

**eTable 3** Correlation matrix of numeric study variables

**eTable 4** Baseline model controlling for demographics, baseline mental health and lifetime sexual assault exposure

**eTable 5** Sex differences in univariable risk factor associations with 3-month PTSD severity in the subsample of participants with motor vehicle collision

**eTable 6** Moderation effects of sex in the subsample of participants with motor vehicle collisions

**Supplement 1: Detailed information on measures included in this study**

**Outcome**

*PTSD Symptoms* in relation to the index event at ED visit were assessed by the PTSD Symptom Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5; Weathers, Litz, et al., 2013). The PCL-5 is a 20 item self-report questionnaire that assesses the presence and severity of various posttraumatic stress symptoms. Participants rated the severity of each symptom on a scale of 0 = “*not at all*” to 4 = “*extremely*”. Items are summed up to create a total symptom severity score. Assessment took place at the 3-month follow-up.

**Pre-traumatic predictors**

*Sex* was assessed by asking 'What was your sex at birth, as it appears on your birth certificate?’. Response options were: Male, Female. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Age* (in years) at enrollment was calculated from the date of birth and the presentation date. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Race/Ethnicity* was derived by evaluating two survey questions: ‘Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?’. If the answer to this first question was ‘yes’ participants race/ethnicity was coded as Hispanic. If the answer to the first question was ‘no’, participants were asked’ ‘What race do you consider yourself to be?’. Answers were coded as Hispanic; Non-Hispanic White; Non-Hispanic Black; Non-Hispanic Other. For the analyses responses were aggregated towards a variable reflecting whether the participant was member of a minority group (including participants’ whose race/ethnicity was coded as Hispanic, Non-Hispanic-Black, Non-Hispanic Other) or not. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Marital Status* was assessed by asking ‘What is your current marital status?’ Response options included Married; Separated; Divorced; Annulled; Widowed; Never been married. For the analyses responses were aggregated towards a variable reflecting whether the participant was ‘currently married’ and ‘currently not married’. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Educational Attainment* was assessed by asking ‘What is the highest grade or level of school you completed or the highest degree you received?’. Response options included: Never attended/kindergarten only; 1st grade; 2nd grade; 3rd grade; 4th grade; 5th grade; 6th grade; 7th grade; 8th grade; 9th grade; 10th grade; 11th grade; 12th grade, no diploma; High school graduate; GED or equivalent; Some college, no degree; Associate degree: Occupational, technical, or vocational program; Associate degree: Academic program; Bachelor’s degree: BA, AB, BS, BBA; Master’s degree: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MBA; Professional school degree: MD, DDS, DVM, JD; Doctoral degree: PhD, EdD. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Family Income* was assessed asking ‘What is your best estimate of your total family income from all sources, before taxes, in the last calendar year?’. Responses were coded as: Total family income is less than or equal to $19,000; Total family income is between $19,001 and $35,000; Total family income is between $35,001 and $50,000; Total family income is between $50,001 and $75,000; Total family income is between $75,001 and $100,000; Total family income is greater than $100,000. If participants were unable to give an estimate to the open-ended item, they were asked follow-up questions based on the income categories of the response options (‘Was your total family income from all sources less than $xxx or more than $xxx’). For the analyses, responses were aggregated towards a variable reflecting whether the participant’s family income was ‘less than 19k’ or not. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

*Employment Status* was assessed asking ‘What is your current employment status?’. Responses were coded as Employed; Retired; Homemaker; Student; Unemployed, disabled, or other. For the analyses, responses were aggregated towards a variable reflecting whether the participant was currently unemployed or not. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Pre-trauma Depression Symptoms* were assessed using the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Depression Short-Form 8b (Cella et al., 2010; Pilkonis et al., 2011). The questionnaire contains 8 questions that are rated on a scale from 1 = “None of the time” to 5 = “All or almost all of the time”. In line with the original scale items were summed up and converted to a T-score. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED) and reference period were the 30 days prior to the event.

*Pre-trauma Anxiety Symptoms* were assessed using the PROMIS Anxiety Bank Items (Pilkonis et al., 2011). The questionnaire contains 4 questions about anxiety symptoms that are rated on a scale from 1 = “None of the time” to 5 = “All or almost all of the time”. Items were summed up to create a total anxiety score. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED) and reference period were the 30 days prior to the event.

*Anxiety Sensitivity* was assessed by an abbreviated version of the Anxiety Sensitivity Index scale (Pilkonis et al., 2011). It contains three of the original 16 items; two from the cognitive concerns factor and one from the physical concerns factor. Participants were asked “In general, how much do the following statements apply to you?” Response options ranged from 0 = “not at all” to 4 = “extremely.” Similar to the scoring rules of the full ASI the three items were summed up to create an anxiety sensitivity score. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

*Neuroticism* was assessed by asking all eight items of the neuroticism subscale of the Big Five Personality Inventory (BFI; John et al., 2008). Response options were modified to a 7-point likert scale (rather than 5-point scale) ranging from 0 = “disagree strongly,” to 6 = “agree strongly.” Similar to the scoring rules of the BFI the reverse items were re-coded, and then the average of the eight items was calculated. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

*Trauma Load* was assessed using the Life Events Checklist for DSM-5 (LEC-5; Gray et al., 2004; Weathers, Blake, et al., 2013). The LEC-5 is a 17-item measure used to assess exposure to 17 traumatic life events that are known to potentially result in significant distress or PTSD. Trauma load was calculated by summing up participants’ endorsement of each trauma category as either experienced personally, witnessed, or learned about it (range 0-51). Assessment took place at week 8 follow-up.

**Peri-traumatic predictors**

*Peri-traumatic Distress* was assessed with a modified version of the Peritraumatic Distress Inventory (PDI; Brunet et al., 2001), which contains eight of the original 13 items. Participants were asked “The following questions are about your experience and your feelings during and immediately after the event that brought you into the ER. How often did you…?”. Response options ranged from 0 = “*none of the time*” to 4 = “*all or almost all of the time*”. Similar to the scoring rules of the original PDI the items were summed up to form a 0 to 32 range scale. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

*Chance of Dying* was assessed by asking participants to rate how close they came to dying during the event, using a 0–to-10 scale, where 0 means that their “*life was not threatened at all*,” and 10 means that they “*came very close to being killed or easily could have been killed*”. Assessment took place during enrollment (ED).

**Post-traumatic predictors**

*Social Support* was assessed using modified version of the PROMIS Emotional Support-Short Form 4a (Cella et al., 2010), which contains three of the original four items. Participants were asked “How often in the past two weeks did the people in your personal life…”. Response options ranged from 0 = “*never*” to 4 = “*very often*”. Items were summed up to create a social support score. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

*Acute Stress Disorder Symptoms* (ASD) were assessed using a modified version of the PCL-5 (Weathers, Litz, et al., 2013). In addition to 14 questions of the original scale, the following questions were asked: “How often in the past two weeks did you… feel like people, objects, or world around you seemed strange or unreal? …feel like you were looking through a fog so that people and things seemed far away or unclear?”. Items were summed up following scoring rules based on symptom endorsement to form a 0 to 14 range scale. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

*Acute Dissociative Symptoms* were assessed with the Brief Dissociative Experiences Scale (DES-B) – Modified (Dalenberg & Carlson, 2010), which contains two of the original eight items. Participants were asked “How often during the past two weeks did you have each of the following experiences?”. Response options ranged from 1 = “*none of the time*” to 5 = “*all or almost all of the time*”. Items were summed up to create a total dissociative experiences score. Assessment took place at week 2 follow-up.

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**Supplement 2: Supplementary Tables**

**eTable 1** Risk factor characteristics by sex

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Men (N=1124)** | **Women (N=1818)** | **p-value** |
| **Marital status**a |  |  |  |
| Currently married | 874 (77.8%) | 1444 (79.4%) | .352 |
| **Employment status**b |  |  |  |
| Currently unemployed | 180 (16.0%) | 293 (16.1%) | .676 |
| **Family income/year**c |  |  |  |
| Less than 19k | 304 (27.0%) | 546 (30.0%) | .340 |
| **Member of marginalized group**d | 722 (64.2%) | 1188 (65.3%) | .579 |
| **Lifetime sexual assault exposure**e | 88 (7.8%) | 547 (30.1%) | <.001 |
|  | **Men (N=1124)** | **Women (N=1818)** | **p-value** |
| **Age** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 36.1 (13.1) | 35.8 (13.4) | .586 |
| **Trauma load**f |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 9.87 (9.96) | 9.73 (9.03) | .723 |
| **Chance of dying** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 5.76 (3.32) | 5.93 (3.44) | .194 |
| **Peritraumatic distressg** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 11.8 (7.09) | 15.2 (7.08) | <.001 |
| **Pre-trauma depression symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 48.7 (10.7) | 49.5 (11.0) | .059 |
| **Pre-trauma anxiety symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 4.90 (4.55) | 5.47 (4.75) | .001 |
| **Acute stress disorder symptoms**h |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 5.87 (4.73) | 7.59 (4.48) | <.001 |
| **Acute dissociative symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 1.69 (2.12) | 1.80 (2.14) | .166 |
| **Social support** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 10.2 (3.25) | 10.3 (3.33) | .604 |
| **Anxiety Sensitivity**i |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 2.88 (3.09) | 3.37 (3.26) | <.001 |
| **Neuroticism**j |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 2.51 (1.25) | 3.04 (1.27) | <.001 |

*Note.* Bonferroni-corrected alpha level threshold for multiple comparisons is p < 0.003. Data available for a99.3% and 99.5%, b85.7% and 89.8%, c85.2% and 89.3%, d99.6% and 99.6%, e79.1% and 85.9%, f78.9% and 85.8%, g94.9% and 94.1%, h85.1% and 88.2%, i84.5% and 88.8%, j84.4% and 88.5% of men and women, respectively.

**eTable 2** Risk factor characteristics by trauma type

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MVC (N=2194)** | **Non-MVC (N=748)** | **p-value** |
| **Sex** |  |  |  |
| Male | 756 (34.5%) | 368 (49.2%) | <0.001 |
| Female | 1438 (65.5%) | 380 (50.8%) |  |
| **Marital status**a |  |  |  |
| Currently married | 1735 (79.1%) | 583 (77.9%) | .578 |
| **Employment status**b |  |  |  |
| Currently unemployed | 322 (14.7%) | 151 (20.2%) | <.001 |
| **Family income/year**c |  |  |  |
| Less than 19k | 610 (27.8%) | 240 (32.1%) | .008 |
| **Member of marginalized group**d | 1468 (66.9%) | 442 (59.1%) | <.001 |
| **Lifetime sexual assault exposure**e | 475 (21.7%) | 160 (21.4%) | .648 |
|  | **MVC (N=2194)** | **Non-MVC (N=748)** | **p-value** |
| **Age** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 35.4 (12.9) | 37.5 (14.3) | <.001 |
| **Trauma load**f |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 9.75 (9.42) | 9.87 (9.27) | .779 |
| **Chance of dying** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 6.05 (3.34) | 5.33 (3.49) | <.001 |
| **Peritraumatic distressg** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 14.2 (7.14) | 13.0 (7.57) | <.001 |
| **Pre-trauma depression symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 48.6 (10.7) | 51.1 (11.1) | <.001 |
| **Pre-trauma anxiety symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 5.08 (4.63) | 5.73 (4.83) | .001 |
| **Acute stress disorder symptoms**h |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 7.14 (4.60) | 6.34 (4.74) | <.001 |
| **Acute dissociative symptoms** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 1.72 (2.09) | 1.85 (2.27) | .185 |
| **Social support** |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 10.3 (3.30) | 10.1 (3.30) | .212 |
| **Anxiety Sensitivity**i |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 3.13 (3.14) | 3.34 (3.38) | .171 |
| **Neuroticism**j |  |  |  |
| Mean (SD) | 2.86 (1.29) | 2.81 (1.28) | .477 |

*Note.* MVC motor vehicle collision. Bonferroni-corrected alpha level threshold for multiple comparisons is p < 0.003. Data available for a99.5% and 99.3%, b88.7% and 86.8%, c88.3% and 86.1%, d99.5% and 99.7%, e82.7% and 85.0%, f82.6% and 84.9%, g94.2% and 95.2%, h87.8% and 84.8%, i87.5% and 86.2%, j87.2% and 86.2% of mvc and non-mvc victims, respectively.

**eTable 3** Correlation matrix of numeric study variables

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| 1. PTSD severity | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Age | 0.02 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Pretraumatic depression | 0.391\*\*\* | -0.035 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Pretraumatic anxiety | 0.399\*\*\* | -0.023 | 0.795\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Acute dissociation | 0.499\*\*\* | -0.058\*\* | 0.356\*\*\* | 0.333\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Support | -0.182\*\*\* | 0.072\*\*\* | -0.217\*\*\* | -0.178\*\*\* | -0.127\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Acute stress disorder | 0.649\*\*\* | -0.005 | 0.358\*\*\* | 0.382\*\*\* | 0.653\*\*\* | -0.166\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Peritraumatic distress | 0.317\*\*\* | 0.006 | 0.214\*\*\* | 0.231\*\*\* | 0.276\*\*\* | -0.038\* | 0.425\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |  |
| 8. Chance of dying | 0.217\*\*\* | -0.039\* | 0.062\*\*\* | 0.079\*\*\* | 0.171\*\*\* | -0.012 | 0.244\*\*\* | 0.460\*\*\* | 1 |  |  |
| 10. Anxiety sensitivity | 0.505\*\*\* | -0.155\*\*\* | 0.387\*\*\* | 0.370\*\*\* | 0.576\*\*\* | -0.176\*\*\* | 0.546\*\*\* | 0.299\*\*\* | 0.182\*\*\* | 1 |  |
| 11. Neuroticism | 0.484\*\*\* | -0.155\*\*\* | 0.485\*\*\* | 0.499\*\*\* | 0.385\*\*\* | -0.267\*\*\* | 0.502\*\*\* | 0.257\*\*\* | 0.119\*\*\* | 0.530\*\*\* | 1 |
| 12. Trauma load | 0.175\*\*\* | 0.083\*\*\* | 0.152\*\*\* | 0.157\*\*\* | 0.110\*\*\* | -0.023 | 0.150\*\*\* | 0.012 | -0.006 | 0.082\*\*\* | 0.069\*\* |

*Note.* \* p<.05, \*\* p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001

**eTable 4** Baseline model controlling for demographics, baseline mental health and lifetime sexual assault exposure

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **term** | **coefficient** | **SE** | **t** | ***p*** |
| (intercept) | -0.25 | 0.04 | -5.64 | 0.000 |
| age | 0.05 | 0.02 | 2.45 | 0.015 |
| family income <19k | 0.08 | 0.04 | 1.98 | 0.048 |
| member of minority group | 0.10 | 0.04 | 2.52 | 0.012 |
| unemployed | 0.07 | 0.05 | 1.32 | 0.186 |
| married | -0.09 | 0.05 | -1.85 | 0.065 |
| pre-traumatic depression | 0.21 | 0.03 | 6.77 | 0.000 |
| pre-traumatic anxiety | 0.21 | 0.03 | 6.75 | 0.000 |
| life time sexual assault | 0.25 | 0.04 | 5.66 | 0.000 |
| sex (female) | 0.13 | 0.04 | 3.37 | 0.001 |

Continuous variables were standardized, categorical variables were dummy-coded.

**eTable 5** Sex differences in univariable risk factor associations with 3-month PTSD severity in the subsample of participants with motor vehicle collision

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Men** | | | |  | **Women** | | | |  | **Difference** | |
|  | ***r*** | **lower.ci** | **upper.ci** | ***p*** |  | ***r*** | **lower.ci** | **upper.ci** | ***p*** |  | ***d*** | ***p*** |
| Acute stress disorder | 0.67 | 0.63 | 0.71 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.61 | 0.57 | 0.64 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.06 | 0.027\* |
| Acute dissociation | 0.55 | 0.50 | 0.60 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.46 | 0.42 | 0.50 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.09 | 0.007\*\* |
| Anxiety sensitivity | 0.52 | 0.47 | 0.58 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.47 | 0.42 | 0.51 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.06 | 0.123 |
| Neuroticism | 0.45 | 0.39 | 0.51 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.45 | 0.41 | 0.49 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.00 | 0.996 |
| Pre-traumatic anxiety | 0.41 | 0.35 | 0.47 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.35 | 0.31 | 0.40 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.06 | 0.139 |
| Pre-traumatic depression | 0.38 | 0.32 | 0.44 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.36 | 0.31 | 0.40 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.02 | 0.638 |
| Peritraumatic distress | 0.33 | 0.27 | 0.40 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.30 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.09 | 0.042\* |
| Chance of dying | 0.24 | 0.17 | 0.31 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.22 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.07 | 0.097 |
| Trauma load | 0.11 | 0.03 | 0.19 | 0.005\*\* |  | 0.22 | 0.17 | 0.28 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.11 | 0.027\* |
| Family income <19,000 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.063 |  | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.14 | 0.002\*\* |  | 0.01 | 0.760 |
| Age | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.056 |  | 0.03 | -0.02 | 0.08 | 0.251 |  | -0.04 | 0.381 |
| Unemployment | 0.05 | -0.02 | 0.13 | 0.170 |  | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.15 | 0.001\*\* |  | 0.04 | 0.427 |
| Member of minority group | 0.05 | -0.02 | 0.12 | 0.152 |  | 0.04 | -0.01 | 0.09 | 0.111 |  | -0.01 | 0.821 |
| Lifetime sexual assault | 0.05 | -0.03 | 0.13 | 0.249 |  | 0.19 | 0.13 | 0.24 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | 0.14 | 0.005\*\* |
| Marriage | -0.02 | -0.09 | 0.06 | 0.666 |  | -0.07 | -0.12 | -0.02 | 0.009\*\* |  | -0.05 | 0.240 |
| Support | -0.14 | -0.21 | -0.07 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.21 | -0.26 | -0.16 | <0.001\*\*\* |  | -0.07 | 0.093 |

*Note.* \* p<.05, \*\* p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001

**eTable 6** Moderation effects of sex in the subsample of participants with motor vehicle collisions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **variable** | **estimate** | ***SE*** | **lower.ci** | **upper.ci** | ***t*** | ***p*** |
| Acute dissociation | -0.11 | 0.04 | -0.20 | -0.03 | -2.69 | 0.007\*\* |
| Anxiety sensitivity | -0.09 | 0.05 | -0.18 | 0.00 | -2.02 | 0.044\* |
| Pre-traumatic anxiety | -0.09 | 0.05 | -0.18 | 0.01 | -1.77 | 0.078 |
| Age | -0.07 | 0.05 | -0.16 | 0.02 | -1.46 | 0.145 |
| Trauma load | 0.06 | 0.05 | -0.03 | 0.15 | 1.35 | 0.176 |
| Pre-traumatic depression | -0.05 | 0.05 | -0.15 | 0.04 | -1.11 | 0.267 |
| Marriage | -0.11 | 0.11 | -0.33 | 0.10 | -1.05 | 0.295 |
| Lifetime sexual assault | 0.12 | 0.14 | -0.16 | 0.40 | 0.81 | 0.417 |
| Peritraumatic distress | -0.03 | 0.05 | -0.13 | 0.06 | -0.70 | 0.483 |
| Unemployment | 0.08 | 0.13 | -0.16 | 0.33 | 0.67 | 0.504 |
| Acute stress disorder | -0.02 | 0.04 | -0.10 | 0.06 | -0.58 | 0.564 |
| Chance of dying | -0.02 | 0.05 | -0.12 | 0.07 | -0.50 | 0.615 |
| Neuroticism | -0.02 | 0.05 | -0.11 | 0.07 | -0.38 | 0.701 |
| Member of minority group | -0.03 | 0.10 | -0.23 | 0.16 | -0.32 | 0.748 |
| Family income <19,000 | -0.03 | 0.10 | -0.23 | 0.17 | -0.29 | 0.771 |
| Support | 0.00 | 0.05 | -0.09 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.980 |

*Note.* Parameter estimates and 95% confidence intervals associated with female sex (versus male sex as the reference group) in a multivariable regression model, including an interaction term between the risk factor variable and sex, adjusting for demographics, baseline mental health and lifetime sexual assault. Outcome was 3-month PTSD severity. Continuous variables were standardized, categorical variables were dummy coded. \* p<.05, \*\* p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001