



Impact of Event Scale- Revised and Underreported Dissociation: Implications for Assessment and Treatment

McDonald & Chichinova, CCPA 2015



What is dissociation?

Definition: Dissociation is a complex psychophysiological process that alters the accessibility of memory and knowledge, integration of behavior, and sense of self (Putnam, 1994).

Epidemiology: challenges in documenting dissociation & emerging international patterns (Sar, 2010)

Epidemiology (APA, 2015)

Research finds that PTSD, a common product of exposure to violence, has negative consequences for income and employment.

- * Individuals with untreated PTSD had significantly lower long-term income and employment rates than those receiving treatment (Murdoch, 2006; Savoca & Rosenheck, 2000).
- * A lifetime diagnosis of PTSD was associated with a nearly 50 percent lower probability of current employment (Savoca & Rosenheck, 2000).
- * Individuals with more severe PTSD symptoms were less likely to have full- or part-time employment (Smith, Schnurr, & Rosenheck, 2005).



Dissociation in therapy

- *Early*: inhibiting working alliance
- *Middle*: inhibiting processing of key life events & experiences
- *Termination*: inhibiting decision-making around termination



Implications



- * 1) cPTSD & Dissociation
 - * social justice implication
 - * access to care
- * 2) Clinical research protocols do not acknowledge the impact of dissociation
 - * phase oriented treatment
 - * mid to long term care

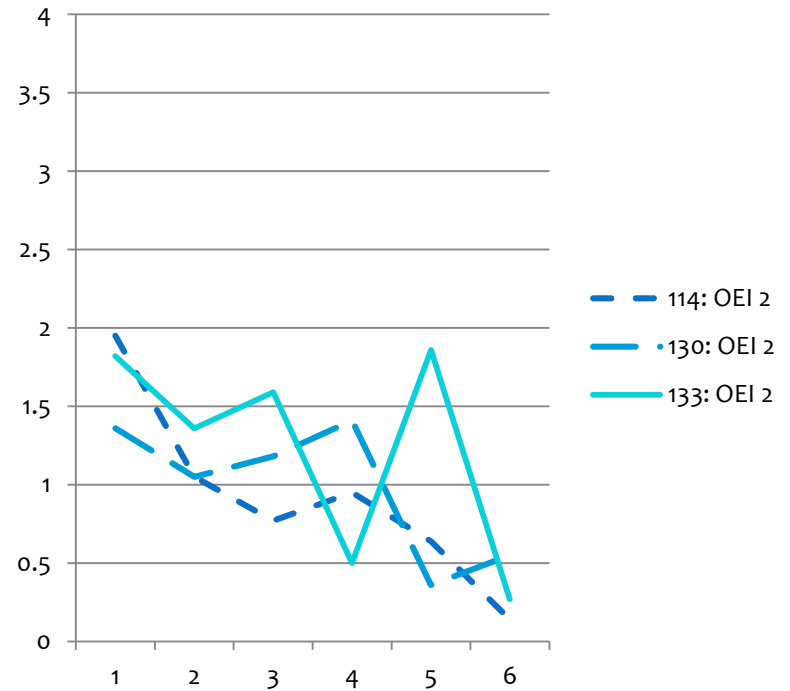
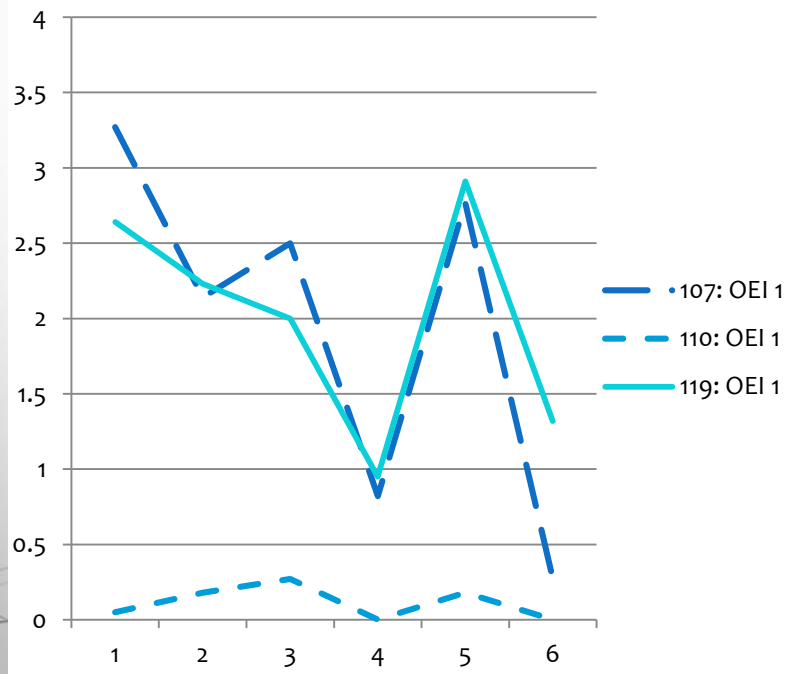
Implications cont

- * Trauma appropriate care
 - * Stabilisation process, processing, consolidation
 - * a) time for treatment–yes, but
 - * b) pacing in therapy
 - * c) continuous screening
 - * d) window of tolerance
 - * e) adapting manualisation–reframing, reconseptualisation of the use of manuals

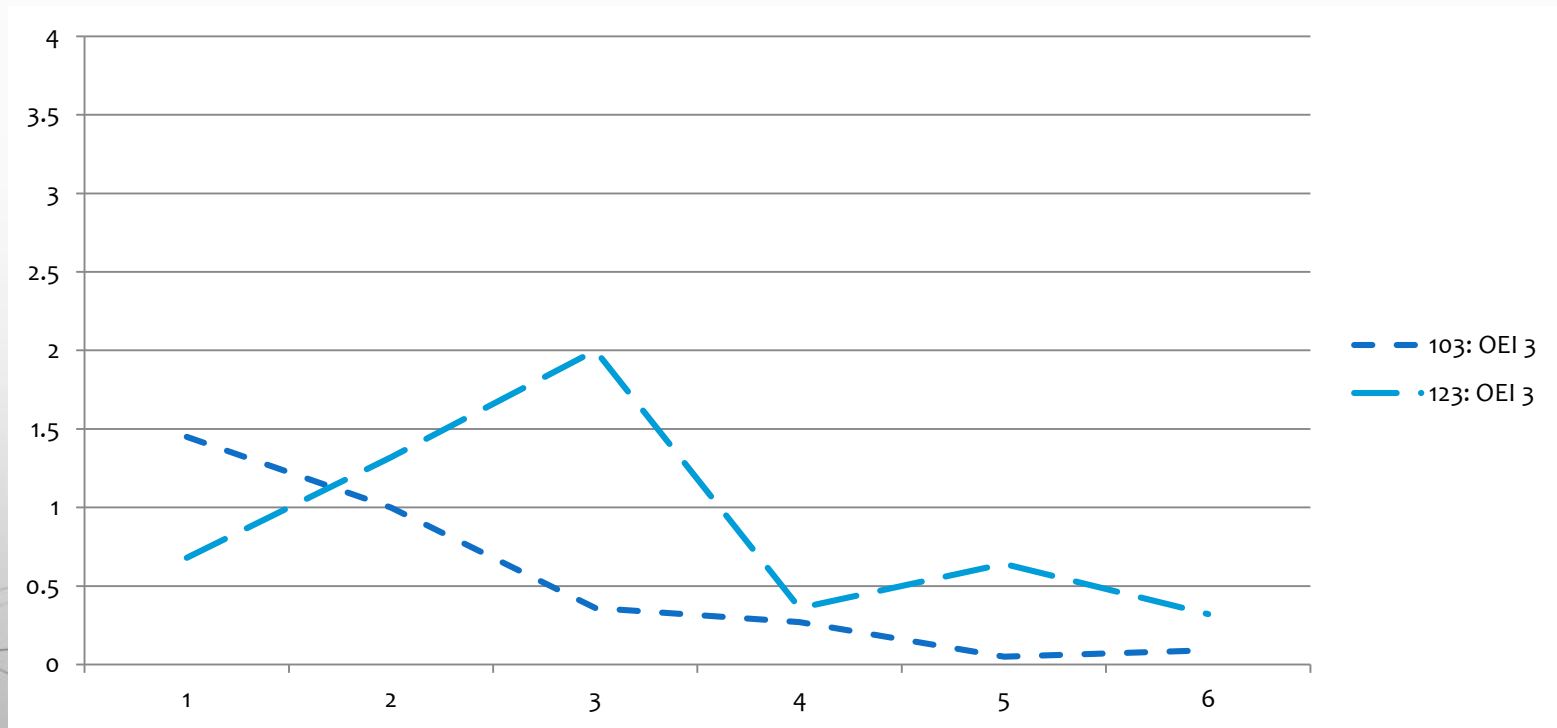
The Present Analysis: RCT examining the Efficacy of Treatments for PTSD

- **Sample 27 women**
 - 137 women completed preliminary assessment
 - 74% did not meet the inclusion criteria
- **Design**
 - Cross-over design
 - 5 observational points
 - Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) x Observed and Experiential Integration (OEI) x Control

IES-R Complex PTSD



Simple PTSD



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Thank you for your interest!

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