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### Preschool Major Depressive Disorder: Gender Differences and the Role of Self-Regulation in Comorbid Symptom Profiles

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# PRESCHOOL MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER: GENDER DIFFERENCES AND THE ROLE OF SELF-REGULATION IN COMORBID SYMPTOM PROFILES

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This study compared comorbid externalizing and internalizing symptoms and disorders in a sample of subjects diagnosed with Preschool Major Depressive Disorder (PMDD). Although there were no gender differences in comorbid symptoms or comorbid internalizing disorders, males showed more comorbid Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, as well as more comorbid externalizing disorders overall. The study then assessed whether or not deficits in Self-Regulation (impulsivity, executive functioning, and effortful control) predicted future externalizing and internalizing disorders in children with PMDD. Deficits in Activation Control predicted internalizing disorders at school-age while deficits in Executive Control, Activation Control, and Effortful Control predicted externalizing disorders at school-age. Finally, the study assessed whether these components of self-regulations moderated the relationship between PMDD and comorbid externalizing or internalizing symptoms at school-age. Subjects with PMDD and deficits in Executive Control and Effortful Control experienced more externalizing symptoms at school-age. Executive Control was also found to be a moderator of the relationship between ADHD at preschool-age and increased ADHD symptoms at school-age.