

**Waller, G., Meyer, C., Ohanian, V., Elliott, P., Dickson, C., & Sellings, J. (2001a). The psychopathology of bulimic women who report childhood sexual abuse: the mediating role of core beliefs. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 189, 700-708.**

Although reported sexual abuse in childhood is associated with bulimic behaviors, less is known about the cognitive factors that explain this association. This study examined the potential role of core beliefs as a mediator in the abuse-bulimia link. Sixty-one bulimic women were interviewed regarding any history of childhood sexual abuse and completed measures of bulimic behaviors, dissociation, depression, and core beliefs. The 21 women who reported a history of childhood sexual abuse had significantly higher levels of several core beliefs and greater levels of psychopathology. Different core beliefs acted as mediators in the relationships between sexual abuse and individual symptoms. The findings support the suggestion that schema-focused cognitive therapy may be useful in working with bulimics, particularly if they have been sexually abused in childhood. Further research is needed to determine the role of core beliefs in mediating the impact of other forms of trauma and how traumas relate to other "escape" behaviors.