

Childhood irritability, depressive mood linked to suicidality later

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(HealthDay)—Children with high irritability and depressive/anxious

mood have increased suicidality risk during adolescence, according to a study published online March 28 in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Massimiliano Orri, Ph.D., from the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Medicale in Bordeaux, France, and colleagues examined the correlation of childhood irritability and depressive/anxious mood profiles with adolescent [suicidality](#) in a population-based cohort study. A total of 1,430 participants in the Québec Longitudinal Study of Child Development were assessed yearly or bi-yearly from 5 months to 17 years of age.

The researchers found that, compared to the group with the lowest symptom levels, children with high irritability and high depressive/anxious mood reported higher rates of suicidality (16.4 versus 11.0 percent). There was a correlation for the high irritability and depressive/anxious mood [profile](#) with suicidality (odds ratio, 2.22); the moderate irritability and low depressive/anxious mood profile was also linked to suicidality, but to a lesser extent (odds ratio, 1.51). Compared with the depressive/anxious mood only profile, the high irritability and depressive/anxious mood profile correlated with a higher suicidal risk (odds ratio, 2.28). Higher risk of suicidality was seen for girls with the high irritability and high depressive/anxious mood profile (odds ratio, 3.07).

"Early manifestation of chronic [irritability](#) during childhood, especially when combined with depressive/anxious [mood](#), may be associated with an elevated risk for adolescent suicidality," the authors write.

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