

1. INTRODUCTION

EDs are a type of mental disorders that involve cognitive distortions, body and eating concerns (Portela de Santana et al., 2012). Currently, the most prevalent EDs are AN, BN, TA and NADCT. The prevalence of AN is 0,3% to 2,2% in Spanish youth (Portela de Santana et al., 2012), while the prevalence of BN is between 0,1% and 2% in Spanish adolescents (Portela de Santana et al., 2012). And NEBCT has a prevalence of between 2,76% and 5,3% in adolescent females aged 12-21 years (Baiges et al., 2008). As for obesity, according to the SEEDO, 53,5% of the population is obese. Errandonea (2012) states that there is usually a correlation between AT and obesity. The causality of ED is multifactorial, influenced by sociocultural factors and the media (Durán, 2005). As well as family (Aedo & Almagíá, 2018) and psychological factors (Bragado, 2018). This problem is usually associated with the adolescent stage according to Hidalgo et al. (2017). However, Samuels, Maine and Tantillo (2019) reiterate that older age is not stranger to eating disorders. On the other hand, differences have been found with respect to sex, as Martínez-González et al., (2014), differences were found among 255 spanish students (21,2% female and 15,9% male) with criteria related to ED. Also González and Viveros (2009) state that women have a predisposition to develop this type of disorder three times higher (12%) than the male population (4%). Likewise, the lack of information among the normative population about EDs is reflected in the study by Napolitano et al. (2019), where only 22,8% of the adolescent population correctly knows the meaning of EDs. According to Wilson et al. (2009), the influence of myths related to ED's, have an impact on the onset and postponement. On the other hand, Salafia et al. (2015) conduct a comparative study of perceptions about the causes of ED between people in the population who suffer from it and people who do not. The results show that there is a high social stigma by the normative population and a lack of introspection of the affected population.

1. OBJECTIVE

The aim of this work is to evaluate the degree of erroneous beliefs existing in the population, as well as to contribute to demystify them. To this end, a questionnaire was developed to evaluate these beliefs. To contribute to demystification, truthful information about ED and obesity was provided at the end of the survey. Our objective is related to Goal 3 “Health and well-being” of the 2030 Agenda, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing.

2. HYPOTHESIS

The underlying hypothesis is that the normative population will have a high degree of erroneous beliefs about the disease, and that majority of them will not conceive of obesity as part of the disease.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Participants

The sample consisted of a total of 266 people of legal age, resident in Spain, with an average age of 33,14 years. A total of 80,5% are women and the remaining 19,5% are men. A total of 50,7% are in university education or higher. On the other hand, 59,9% are in a relationship or married, 47,5% are actively working and the rest are inactive.

3.2 Instruments

A questionnaire has been elaborated with the Qualtrics database, which is composed of 68 items with different beliefs, considered the most representative by the research team. The data analysis was carried out using the IBM SPSS Statistics 26 program.

3.3 Procedure

The present study is a descriptive observational design. In addition, it is a cross-sectional design as it collects information from the population at a single point in time. Therefore, the results are generalizable only to that moment and to that specific population. The sampling is non-probabilistic, since all the subjects in the population did not have the same probability of constituting the sample. With respect to the survey, we opted for the use of fixed response, using a Likert scale with four options. The sample was recruited through social networks and associations, publishing a “post” describing the study and the conditions for participation during February 2021. Only self-administered sociodemographic data were collected, on whether they have been diagnosed with ED, or if they knew someone close to them. Subsequently, in the questionnaire each participant must express the level of agreement on certain beliefs about obesity and ED.

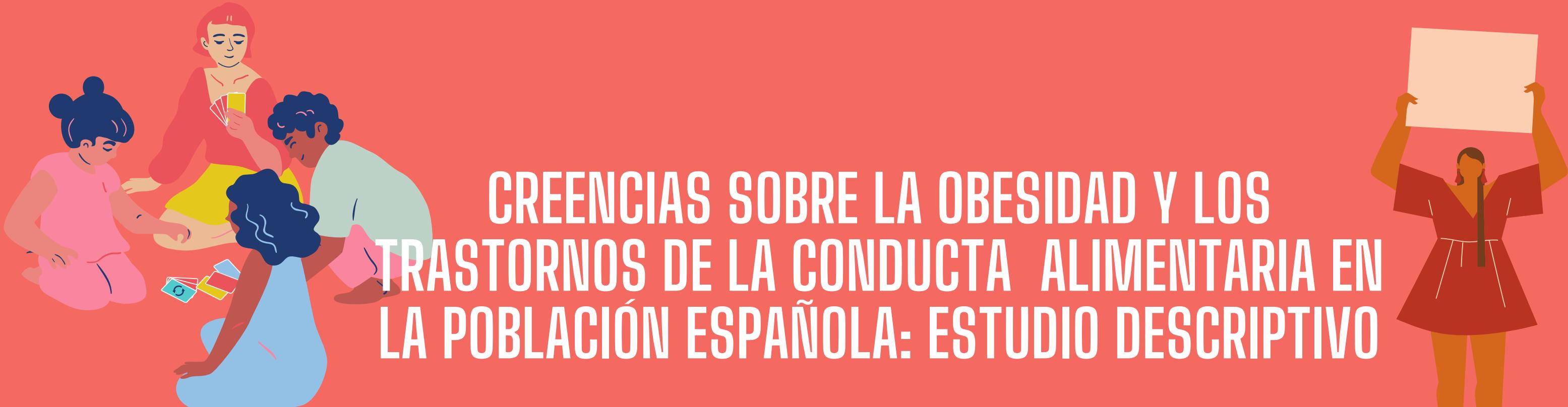
4. RESULTS

The most widespread belief among the sample corresponds to: “A severe eating disorder can lead to death” ($M=4,81$; $SD=0,62$); as well as “Cultural ideals of beauty strongly influence the development of eating disorders” ($M=4,68$; $SD=0,68$); as well as “Psychological factors such as excessive perfectionism and impulsivity increase the risk of having an eating disorder” ($M=4,46$; $SD=0,80$); and also “Eating disorders can have serious consequences for the physical health of the sufferer” ($M=4,69$; $SD=0,95$). On the other hand, a set of beliefs with which the population adheres little were also identified. In the first place “So many public resources should not be spent on treating people with anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder or obesity” ($M=1,21$; $SD=0,65$); in addition to “Nothing happens either by using laxatives, vomiting , using diuretics or doing a lot of exercise to maintain weight” ($M=1,26$; $SD=0,76$); and “A person with anorexia is cured by getting fat” ($M=1,24$; $SD=0,71$). A small effect size can be seen between the previously diagnosed and undiagnosed group ($d=0,06$). As well as between

the group that knew someone close to them who had been diagnosed and those who had not ($d=0.001$).

5. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The authors Wilson et al. (2009) state that the population perceives ED as something “not so serious”. However, in the present study there is not a high level of false beliefs in the sample. We can estimate that the fact that people have had someone close to them with ED or obesity (43,3%) may explain the lower level of stigma. One limitation is that not everyone has the same accessibility to social networks, and that it is not possible to control the context of application of the questionnaire. Also the small sample size or that high number of previous studies related to false beliefs have not been found. Moreover, since the data are self-reported, there is a certain risk of social desirability. In conclusion, the results obtained in the present study reflect that we did not find high levels of false beliefs related to ED or obesity. Thus, our initial hypothesis has not been fulfilled. Our objective has been carried out, by evaluating the level of erroneous beliefs in the sample, as well as contributing to demystify them by providing truthful information when carrying out the questionnaire.



CREENCIAS SOBRE LA OBESIDAD Y LOS TRASTORNOS DE LA CONDUCTA ALIMENTARIA EN LA POBLACIÓN ESPAÑOLA: ESTUDIO DESCRIPTIVO

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INTRODUCCIÓN

Los Trastornos de Conducta Alimentaria (TCA) son un tipo de afección mental que implica distorsiones de la autopercepción, preocupaciones por el peso, el aspecto corporal y la alimentación. Actualmente destacan por su prevalencia tres tipos de trastornos alimenticios: el Trastorno por atracción (TA), la Bulimia Nerviosa (BN) y la Anorexia Nerviosa (AN). Estos trastornos poseen una sintomatología distinta, aunque con puntos en común como es la preocupación por el estado corporal. Un problema de salud también frecuente y asociado a la alimentación es la obesidad.

La causa de estos problemas relacionados con la alimentación es multifactorial, ya que influyen factores relacionados con el ambiente social y familiar, el bienestar y aspectos socioculturales. Se trata de una temática relevante de estudio por su incidencia cada vez mayor y por poseer una sintomatología de difícil reversión. Uno de los factores que postergan esta condición es la falta de conocimientos verídicos y la existencia de falsas creencias o estigmas al respecto, tanto en quienes sufren la enfermedad como en la población general. Por ello, el objetivo de este trabajo es evaluar el grado de creencias erróneas existentes en la población española respecto a estos problemas de salud relacionados con la alimentación.

MÉTODO

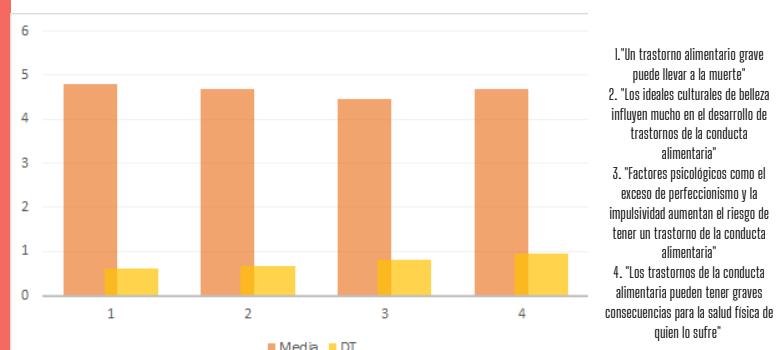
Participantes: La muestra está formada por 266 participantes españoles, con una media de edad de 33,14 años. Un 80,1% eran población femenina y el 19,9% restante masculina. De entre la muestra alcanzada, un 50,4% se encuentran en período de formación universitaria o niveles superiores. Un 59,9% están en una relación o casados. Un 46,3% trabajan, un 16,5% estudian y el resto se encuentran sin empleo.

Instrumentos: Se ha elaborado un cuestionario con la base de datos de Qualtrics. Dicho cuestionario es en formato on-line, donde únicamente se recogen datos sociodemográficos así como información sobre si han padecido un TCA u obesidad anteriormente o en la actualidad. Los ítems redactados, un total de 68, miden el nivel de creencias erróneas o mitos relacionados con la obesidad y los TCA.

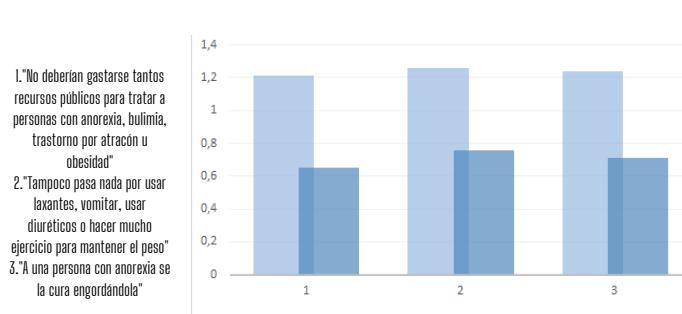
Procedimiento: Se publicó y difundió el cuestionario a través de redes sociales (p.ej. Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) y mediante el contacto con asociaciones que tratan temas como los TCA.

RESULTADOS

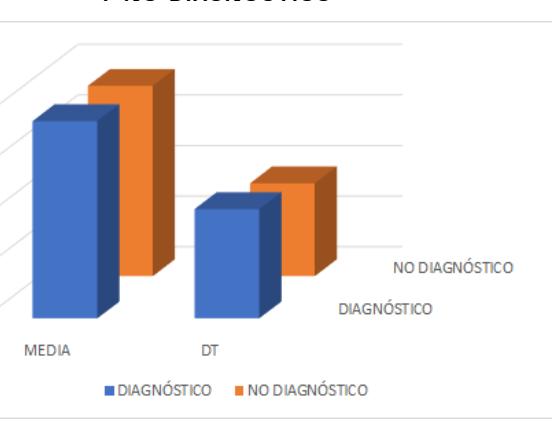
CREENCIAS MÁS ADHERIDAS



CREENCIAS MENOS ADHERIDAS

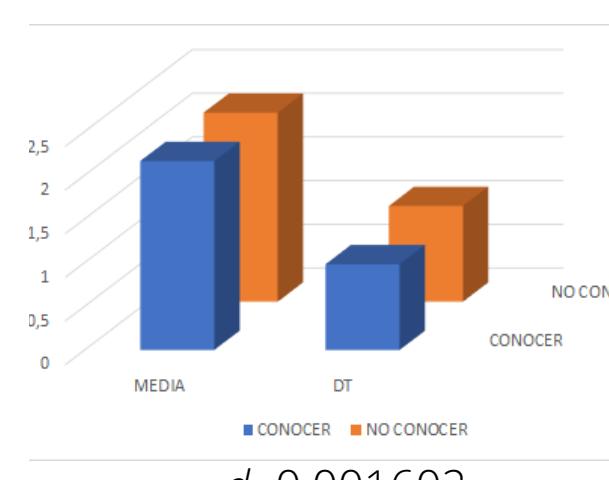


TAMAÑO DEL EFECTO ENTRE GRUPO DIAGNÓSTICO Y NO DIAGNÓSTICO



$d=0.067668$

TAMAÑO DEL EFECTO ENTRE GRUPO QUE CONOCE GENTE DIAGNOSTICADA Y EL QUE NO CONOCE



$d=0.001602$

DISCUSIÓN

No se encontró un nivel de estigma generalizado en la población estudiada. Con los datos obtenidos en el presente estudio, podemos estimar que quizás el elevado porcentaje de personas que han tenido a alguien cercano con TCA u obesidad (46,3%), así como la presencia en la muestra de personas directamente afectadas, pueda ser un factor que influya en el menor estigma detectado.

Limitaciones del estudio:

- Pequeño tamaño de la muestra
- Baja cantidad de estudios previos relacionados con las falsas creencias o estigmas en el área de la investigación que permitan comparar nuestros datos
- Datos auto-informados, lo que aumenta el riesgo de sesgo por deseabilidad social
- La muestra está conformada mayoritariamente por mujeres

En conclusión, los resultados obtenidos en el presente estudio no reflejan la existencia de elevados niveles de falsas creencias o estigmas relacionados con los TCA o la obesidad. Con esto, nuestra hipótesis inicial de que existiría cierto estigma entre la población analizada, no se ha cumplido.

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