

# Anxiety Sensitivity in Children of Panic Disorder Patients

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**Abstract** Anxiety sensitivity (AS), which refers to the tendency to interpret anxiety-related bodily sensations as having potentially harmful somatic, psychological or social consequences, has been proposed as a vulnerability factor for the development of panic disorder (PD). The current study examined the anxiety sensitivity levels in children of parents with panic disorder. Children of panic disorder patients ( $n=68$ ) and children of healthy parents ( $n =68$ ) filled out the Childhood Anxiety Sensitivity Index, while parents completed the Anxiety Sensitivity Index. Children of parents with panic disorder did not display higher levels of anxiety sensitivity than children of healthy parents. Furthermore, no association between anxiety sensitivity levels of parents with panic disorder and their children was found. Anxiety sensitivity is not clearly manifest in children of parents with panic disorder and might be a developing vulnerability factor that may increase towards late adolescence or early adulthood.

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