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Associations between adjustment disorder and hospital-based infections in the Danish population

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32 **INTRODUCTION**

33 Psychological stress is associated with susceptibility to infections [1,2],
34 possibly due to both immune dysregulation [3-5] and the initiation of
35 unhealthy behaviors [6,7]. Consistent with this observation, a quintessential
36 stress-related mental disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), is
37 associated with increased risk of infections [8,9]. Adjustment disorder is
38 another commonly-diagnosed stress-related mental disorder, typically
39 triggered by an acute stressor that is not immediately life threatening and is
40 less traumatic than events that trigger PTSD [10,11]. While there are no
41 specific criteria for adjustment disorder diagnosis, symptoms must follow a
42 stressful event and not fulfill criteria for another condition [10]. Some
43 symptoms, such as intrusion, avoidance, and failure to adapt, may overlap
44 with PTSD. Despite some similarities between adjustment disorder and PTSD,
45 no study has examined whether adjustment disorder is associated with risk
46 of infections.

47 Several possible biological and behavioral mechanisms could explain
48 the association between PTSD and infections [8,9], and these mechanisms
49 may or may not be applicable to adjustment disorder [12]. For example,
50 changes in immune functioning have been linked to both stress [4,5] and
51 PTSD [13-18]. In addition, adverse health outcomes could be due to worse
52 health maintenance, unsafe drug use, alcohol intake, smoking, risky sexual
53 practices, and/or other unhealthy behaviors triggered by stress [7]. An
54 association between adjustment disorder and subsequent infections could

55 contribute to evidence that a variety of stress-related psychopathologies
56 (e.g., PTSD, adjustment disorder), lead to similar biological and behavioral
57 responses due to the common presence of severe stress.

58 In addition, it is plausible that stress disorders could affect risk of
59 infections differently in men and women. Sex-based differences have been
60 documented with respect to biological responses to stress [19], immune
61 responses [20,21], and behaviors that could result from stress and affect
62 health [22]. However, few studies [8] have attempted assess sex differences
63 in the somatic consequences of stress disorders.

64 Aiming to address these gaps in the stress disorder literature, we
65 examined the associations between adjustment disorder diagnosis and 32
66 types of infections in a nationwide registry-based cohort of Danish residents.
67 We also assessed additive interaction between adjustment disorder and sex
68 with respect to risk of infections.

69

70 **METHODS**

71 *Data Sources*

72 **Adjustment disorder cohort.** As described elsewhere [23], we
73 obtained hospital-based adjustment disorder diagnoses from a registry of
74 Danish-born citizens of Denmark with incident severe stress diagnoses,
75 diagnosed at a psychiatric facility between January 1, 1995, and December
76 31, 2011. We excluded emergency room diagnoses due to their low positive
77 predictive value [24,25]. Adjustment disorder was defined as an International

78 Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10) diagnosis of F43.2 and
79 initially identified from the Danish Psychiatric Central Research Registry
80 (DPCRR; n = 66,288) [26]. The DPCRR maintains information on all inpatient
81 psychiatric stays and outpatient psychiatric visits that have occurred since
82 1995. Patients could receive up to 20 diagnoses on the same day, and we
83 included persons in the cohort if any of these diagnoses were for adjustment
84 disorder. Adjustment disorder diagnosis in the DPCRR has high positive
85 predictive value (94%) [27] when compared with independent symptom
86 reassessment. We augmented the initial adjustment disorder cohort with
87 persons diagnosed only at non-psychiatric treatment facilities (n = 3,564),
88 using diagnoses in the Danish National Patient Registry (DNPR) [28]. The
89 DNPR maintains data on all inpatient hospitalizations in non-psychiatric
90 hospitals and hospital outpatient and emergency room visits that occurred
91 since 1995. Adjustment disorder cohort members did not have a previous
92 diagnosis of any stress disorder (i.e., PTSD, acute stress reaction, or
93 unspecified/other reactions to severe stress). In total, the adjustment
94 disorder cohort contained 69,852 individuals.

95 **Comparison cohort.** We created a matched general population
96 comparison cohort of Danish-born residents of Denmark without a diagnosis
97 of adjustment disorder. The comparison cohort was obtained from the Danish
98 Civil Registration System (CRS), which maintains demographic data and
99 unique individual-level identifiers assigned to all Danish residents that have
100 occurred since 1968 [29–31]. The CRS is updated daily with data on the vital

101 status of each resident and can be used to link data across all Danish
102 administrative and medical registries. Comparison cohort members were
103 individually matched to counterparts in the adjustment disorder cohort by
104 sex, age, and patient's adjustment disorder diagnosis date, at a ratio of 5 to
105 1 (n = 349,260). Persons in the CRS who met matching criteria were
106 randomly selected. If a comparison cohort member was later diagnosed with
107 adjustment disorder, that individual was moved to the adjustment disorder
108 cohort (without replacement). Person-time before adjustment disorder
109 diagnosis was analyzed as unexposed person-time.

110 **Infections.** We used the DNPR to identify patients diagnosed with any
111 of 32 infection types following their adjustment disorder diagnosis. Only
112 infections that were treated in hospital (inpatient or outpatient) could be
113 included. We organized infections by body system (see **Appendix 1** for a list
114 of infections and associated ICD-10 codes): circulatory system infections
115 (heart infections), digestive system infections (viral hepatitis, gastrointestinal
116 infections, intra-abdominal infections), immune system disorders (HIV),
117 integumentary infections (cellulitis, skin infections), nervous system
118 infections (meningitis, central nervous system infections, eye infections, ear
119 infections), reproductive system infections (urinary tract infections, female
120 pelvic infections, male genital infections, obstetrical infections), respiratory
121 system infections (tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza, other lower
122 respiratory tract infections, upper respiratory infections), complications or
123 sequelae of infections (bacteremia, infectious complications of medical

124 procedures, sepsis, atypical mycobacteria, abscesses, septic
125 arthritis/osteomyelitis/myositis), and other infections (fungal infections,
126 sexually transmitted infections, miscellaneous bacterial infections, parasitic
127 infections, miscellaneous viral infections, other infections and their
128 sequelae). Each infection was analyzed separately, meaning that a person
129 who had multiple infections during the follow-up period was included in
130 analyses for each individual infection.

131 **Confounders.** We collected information on factors known to be
132 associated with both stress disorders and infections, which may confound
133 the relation of interest. This included physical and psychiatric comorbidities,
134 and marital status. As a measure of overall physical health at baseline, we
135 used data from the DNPR to compute Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI)
136 scores [32]. The diagnoses used to construct these scores were myocardial
137 infarction, congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease,
138 cerebrovascular disease, dementia, chronic pulmonary disease, connective
139 tissue disease, ulcer disease, mild liver disease, diabetes types I and II,
140 hemiplegia, moderate to severe renal disease, diabetes with end-organ
141 damage, any tumor diagnosis, leukemia, lymphoma, moderate to severe
142 liver disease, metastatic solid tumor, and AIDS (see **Appendix 1** for a list of
143 ICD-10 and ICD-8 codes that defined these conditions). These diagnoses
144 have individually been shown to have excellent positive predictive value in
145 the DNPR [33]. We also obtained information on substance
146 abuse/dependence, depression, and anxiety diagnoses from the DPCRR and

147 DNPR, and on marital status from the CRS. All confounder information was
148 based on status prior to the adjustment disorder diagnosis or the match date
149 (as applicable).

150

151 *Analyses*

152 Participants were followed from the date of their adjustment disorder
153 diagnosis (or match date for the comparison cohort), until their first infection
154 during the follow-up period (for each individual infection type), emigration
155 from Denmark, death, or the end of the study period (December 31, 2011),
156 whichever came first. We used Cox proportional hazards regression to
157 compute adjusted hazard ratios (aHR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for
158 the association of adjustment disorder with each infection type. Cox models
159 were adjusted for baseline marital status, prior physical comorbidities (CCI
160 score ≥ 1 versus 0), and prior diagnosis of depression, anxiety disorder,
161 alcohol abuse/dependence disorder, and other drug abuse/dependence
162 disorder (see Appendix for ICD-10 codes). We controlled for age and sex in
163 the design phase via matching. To assess the robustness of our findings, we
164 calculated e-values [34], which indicate the degree (on a multiplicative
165 scale) to which a hypothetical unmeasured confounder would need to
166 increase the risk of both adjustment disorder and a given infection in order
167 to fully explain the association between adjustment disorder and that
168 infection.

169 Using interaction contrasts (IC) [35], we assessed potential additive
170 interaction between adjustment disorder and sex. Positive interaction
171 contrasts indicate positive interdependence between adjustment disorder
172 and male sex, such that the risk of infections among men with adjustment
173 disorder is greater than that based on the independent effects of adjustment
174 disorder and male sex. Negative interaction contrasts indicate that the risk of
175 infections among men with adjustment disorder is less than that expected
176 based on the independent effects of adjustment disorder and male sex.

177 We conducted two sub-analyses. First, infections are often triggered by
178 physical trauma or surgery, and the causes of such infections may differ
179 from the causes of community-acquired infections. Thus, we stratified results
180 for five infection types (intra-abdominal infections, skin infections, urinary
181 tract infection, pneumonia, and sepsis) according to whether or not they
182 occurred within 30 days of a trauma or surgery, given the fact that these
183 infections are common sequelae of trauma. Trauma was defined based on
184 ICD-10 codes, and surgery was defined based on Nordic Medico-Statistical
185 Committee (NOMESCO) classification codes (see Appendix 1). Second, since
186 the validity of adjustment disorder diagnosis in the DNPR is unknown, we
187 repeated the analyses including in the adjustment disorder cohort only
188 individuals who received their diagnosis in a psychiatric hospital (i.e.
189 recorded in the DPCRR but not the DNPR).

190 Finally, it is plausible that persons with adjustment disorder could have
191 had infections diagnosed more accurately, given that they are under the

192 care of a physician for their adjustment disorder. Thus, we conducted a bias
193 analysis in which we adjusted HR estimates by multiplying the observed
194 estimate by a bias-adjustment factor. This factor was Se_0/Se_1 , where Se_0
195 represented sensitivity of infection diagnosis among the comparison cohort
196 and Se_1 represented sensitivity of infection diagnosis among the adjustment
197 disorder cohort [36]. We assumed perfect specificity of infection diagnoses.
198 We set Se_0 at 0.80, based on a validation study of Danish patients with
199 community-acquired infections [37]. We assessed the impact of three
200 possible values of Se_1 : 0.85, 0.90, and 0.95.

201 All analyses were performed using SAS, version 9.4. The study was
202 approved by the Danish Data Protection Agency (record number 2012-41-
203 0841) and by the Institutional Review Board at Boston University.

204

205 **RESULTS**

206 At the time of adjustment disorder diagnosis, 54% of persons with
207 adjustment disorder were 16-39 years old, 33% were 40-59 years old, and
208 13% were greater than 60 years old (**Table 1**). The age distribution in the
209 comparison cohort was similar due to age-matching. Persons with
210 adjustment disorder were less likely to be married or in a registered
211 partnership than members of the comparison cohort (31% vs. 43%). They
212 were also more likely to be diagnosed with anxiety disorder (4.5% vs. 0.6%),
213 depression (15% vs. 1.1%), alcohol abuse/dependence (12% vs. 1.9%), and
214 drug abuse/dependence (4.8% vs. 0.6%), more likely to have at least one

215 physical health comorbidity as indicated by the CCI (21% vs. 12%), and more
216 likely to have chronic pulmonary disease (a marker of smoking status, 6.7%
217 vs. 3.5%). Persons with adjustment disorder had a greater frequency of
218 death during the study period (13% vs. 6.2%), and had a similar prevalence
219 of emigration from Denmark (0.6% vs. 0.9%).

220 The rate of any infection was almost two times higher in the
221 adjustment disorder cohort compared to the comparison cohort (aHR = 1.8,
222 95% CI: 1.8, 1.9). The strength of the association between adjustment
223 disorder and most infections was consistent, generally falling in the range of
224 1.5 and 2.3 (**Table 2**). Exceptions that were stronger in magnitude were viral
225 hepatitis (aHR = 3.6, 95% CI: 3.1, 4.1) and HIV (aHR = 2.8, 95% CI: 2.3, 3.6).
226 The e-value for any infection was 3.0, (**Table 2**), meaning that a hypothetical
227 unmeasured confounder would need to increase the risk of both adjustment
228 disorder and infections by a factor of at least 3.0 to explain away the
229 association between these variables. E-values for individual infections
230 averaged approximately 3, and ranged from 2.4 for obstetrical infections and
231 miscellaneous viral infections to 6.7 for viral hepatitis.

232 There was evidence of additive interaction between adjustment
233 disorder and male (versus female) sex for a number of infections (**Table 3**).
234 In many cases, the infection rate among men with adjustment disorder was
235 higher than what would have been expected based on the independent
236 effects of adjustment disorder and male sex. The infections for which we
237 found the greatest evidence of this type of interaction were skin infections

238 (IC = 199 per 100,000 person-years, 95% CI: 155, 243), pneumonia (IC =
239 172 per 100,000 person-years, 95% CI: 111, 234), and abscesses (IC = 156
240 per 100,000 person-years, 95% CI: 104, 207). On the contrary, for urinary
241 tract infections (IC = -345, per 100,000 person-years, 95% CI: -394, -295)
242 and sexually transmitted infections (IC = -64.1 per 100,000 person-years,
243 95% CI: -88.1, -40.1), the infection rate among men with adjustment disorder
244 was lower than what would have been expected based on the independent
245 effects of adjustment disorder and male sex, indicating weaker effects
246 among men than women.

247 In the first subanalysis, hazard ratios did not differ meaningfully
248 according to whether infections were trauma- and/or surgery-related versus
249 not (**Table S1**). However, the degree of additive interaction between
250 adjustment disorder and sex was greater for infections that were not related
251 to trauma or surgery compared to infections that were (**Table S2**). In the
252 second subanalysis, we found that when restricting to individuals those who
253 received their diagnosis only in a psychiatric hospital, and their matched
254 counterparts, the HR for any infection was still 1.8 (95% CI: 1.8, 1.8), and all
255 HRs for individual infections types were similar to those in the primary
256 analysis (± 0.1). The demographic characteristics of individuals in this
257 subanalysis did not differ from those in the main analysis.

258 Finally, assuming a valid bias model, HRs did not change substantially
259 in the bias analysis addressing possible differential misclassification. In this
260 analysis, the aHR for any infection was 1.7 (95% CI: 1.7, 1.8) when $Se_1 =$

261 0.85, 1.6 (95% CI: 1.6, 1.7) when $Se_1 = 0.90$, and 1.5 (95% CI: 1.5, 1.6) when
262 $Se_1 = 0.95$. Associations for individual infections were similarly slightly
263 decreased, but all estimates and 95% CI remained above 1.0.

264

265 **DISCUSSION**

266 Building on a body of work linking stress [1-7] and PTSD [8,9] to
267 infections, this study is the first to assess the link between adjustment
268 disorder and infections. In a cohort of Danish-born residents of Denmark, we
269 found that persons with adjustment disorder had a 1.8-fold increased rate of
270 any infection during the follow-up period, compared to the general
271 population without adjustment disorder. While the adjusted hazard ratio was
272 around 1.8 for most individual infections (range = 1.5 to 2.3 for 30 infection
273 types), persons with adjustment disorder had almost three times or greater
274 the rate of viral hepatitis and HIV compared to persons without. In some
275 cases, adjustment disorder interacted with sex; for many infection types, the
276 increase in infection rate due to adjustment disorder was greater for men
277 compared to women. For urinary tract infections and sexually transmitted
278 infections, the increase in infection rate due to adjustment disorder was
279 greater in women compared to men.

280 Persons with adjustment disorder have similar long-term health
281 outcomes—including risk of cardiovascular disease [38], autoimmune
282 disorders [39,40], all-cause mortality [41], and hospital use [42]—compared
283 to persons with PTSD. Adjustment disorder has been described as a

284 subclinical or mild disorder compared with other psychiatric disorders like
285 PTSD [43,44] and depression [45]. However, our finding that adjustment
286 disorder is associated with similarly increased rates of infections suggests
287 that PTSD and adjustment disorder may work through similar biological and
288 behavioral pathways.

289 There are several potential explanations for the association between
290 stress disorders and infections. A large body of work has linked PTSD to
291 immune dysregulation [16]. For example, persons with PTSD have increased
292 levels of inflammation-related biomarkers such as C-reactive protein and
293 interleukin-6 [14-17], and there is evidence of changes in hypothalamic
294 pituitary adrenal axis activity in response to stress [5,16]. While immune
295 dysregulation is a possible explanation for our findings, behavioral factors
296 may also be explanatory. For example, following severe stress, persons may
297 decrease their health maintenance, use drugs and alcohol more frequently,
298 and/or engage in risky sexual practices, thereby increasing risk of exposure
299 to infectious agents [6,7]. Behavioral explanations are particularly likely for
300 the infections with the largest associations - namely viral hepatitis and HIV.
301 Nevertheless, given existing literature, a combination of biological and
302 behavioral mechanisms is plausible.

303 Our finding that rate differences for the majority of infections were
304 greater in magnitude among men than women is consistent with previous
305 research on PTSD and infections [8]. Potentially explaining these findings,
306 limited evidence suggests that men have greater increases in cortisol

307 production in response to stress compared to women [19,46,47]. The
308 consequences of behavioral responses to stress may also differ in men and
309 women [22]. Additional work in this area is needed to better explain
310 interactions with sex. In addition, additional work should expand this work to
311 explore other potential interacting factors (such as psychiatric, somatic, and/
312 or drug use comorbidities).

313 Our findings must be considered in light of several limitations. First,
314 beyond the covariates adjusted for, there is a possibility of unmeasured
315 confounding by factors that can cause both stress disorders and infections,
316 such as socioeconomic status and risky behavior, but the use of registry data
317 did not allow us to account for these variables. Nevertheless, the results of
318 our e-value analysis indicate that a hypothetical unmeasured confounder
319 would need to approximately triple the risk of both adjustment disorder and
320 infections in order to fully explain away the observed associations. There is
321 little evidence that the unmeasured potential confounders listed above cause
322 adjustment disorder or other stress disorders to this degree, particularly
323 conditional on the variables for which we did adjust. In addition, stress
324 disorders have been linked to other health conditions like diabetes, even
325 when adjusting for behavioral risk factors [48]. Second, we were not able to
326 adjust for comorbid psychiatric disorders diagnosed prior to 1995 due to use
327 of ICD-8 in Denmark prior to this time and inconsistencies in psychiatric
328 diagnostic criteria between the two ICD versions. Third, because there may
329 be delays in diagnosing psychiatric disorders, we may have adjusted for

330 variables on the causal pathway between adjustment disorder and infections
331 if they were diagnosed first, thereby attenuating observed HRs.

332 Fourth, there may have been imperfect sensitivity of adjustment
333 disorder due to misdiagnosis as depression or another disorder with
334 overlapping symptomology; the stigma of mental illness, which can preclude
335 help seeking; and/or avoidance of thinking about the event, which is a
336 hallmark symptom of stress disorders. However, given the rarity of
337 adjustment disorder in this population (about 2%), the magnitude of bias
338 would be driven by specificity rather than sensitivity, and would thus be
339 small. Given the prospective nature of the data, any misclassification was
340 likely non-differential by infection status, and bias is expected to be towards
341 the null. Fifth, detection bias was possible. Although the DNPR is considered
342 suitable for monitoring infections requiring hospitalization [37,49], infections
343 that were not treated in a hospital would not have been recorded in the
344 DNPR. Infection diagnosis may have been more likely among persons with
345 adjustment disorder, as they may be in greater contact with the healthcare
346 system. However, our bias analysis to address imperfect and differential
347 sensitivity of infection classification indicated that, assuming a valid bias
348 model, this could not explain the observed associations.

349 Despite these limitations, this work highlights important physical
350 health consequences faced by individuals with adjustment disorder, and
351 documents that these consequences are relatively comparable to those
352 faced by persons with PTSD [38,50,51]. Adjustment disorder is a relatively

353 common mental health diagnosis, with over half of psychiatrists worldwide
354 reporting using this diagnosis once a week or more [52], yet adjustment
355 disorder is vastly understudied [10,11]. Extending this work to better
356 understand the specific pathways that explain the associations between
357 stress disorders and infections, as well as the effects of stressful and
358 traumatic experiences themselves, will be important areas for future
359 research.

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365

366 **Conflict of interest statement:** The authors have no competing interests
367 to report.

368

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563

564 Table 1: Baseline characteristics of members of the study cohorts, Denmark, 1995-
 565 2011 (n=419,112)

	% of adjustment disorder cohort (n=69,852)	% of comparison cohort (n=349,260)
Female	61	61
Age group		
16-39 years	54	54
40-59 years	33	33
60+ years	13	13
Marital status		
Married/registered partnership	31	43
Single	36	32
Divorced	16	7.6
Widowed	5.9	4.1
Unknown	12	14
Anxiety disorder	4.5	0.6
Depression	15	1.1
Alcohol abuse/dependence	12	1.9
Drug abuse/dependence	4.8	0.6
Somatic comorbidities (comprising Charlson Comorbidity Index)		
Myocardial infarction	1.7	0.9
Congestive heart failure	1.3	0.6
Peripheral vascular disease	1.5	0.8
Cerebrovascular disease	3.3	1.6
Dementia	0.4	0.2
Chronic pulmonary disease	6.7	3.5
Connective tissue disease	1.8	1.2
Ulcer disease	2.9	1.1
Mild liver disease	1.2	0.3
Diabetes	2.6	1.4
Hemiplegia	0.2	0.1
Moderate to severe renal disease	0.9	0.4
Diabetes with end organ damage	1.2	0.5
Any tumor	3.3	2.4
Leukemia	0.1	0.1
Lymphoma	0.2	0.2
Moderate to severe liver disease	0.3	0.1
Metastatic solid tumor	0.4	0.2
AIDS	0	0
Charlson Comorbidity Index 1+	21	12

566 Table 2: Hazard ratios for episodes of infections by type from Cox regression
 567 models, by organ system, Denmark, 1995-2011 (n=419,112)

Infection type	Events in adjustment disorder cohort (n=69,852)	Events in comparison cohort (n=349,260)	Adjusted HR¹ (95% CI)	e-value (lower bound of 95% CI)
Any infection	19,838	57,353	1.8 (1.8, 1.9)	3.0 (3.0)
Circulatory system				
Heart infections ²	127	320	1.8 (1.5, 2.4)	3.0 (2.4)
Digestive system				
Viral hepatitis	624	644	3.6 (3.1, 4.1)	6.7 (5.7)
Gastrointestinal infections	1,906	4,143	2.2 (2.1, 2.3)	3.8 (3.6)
Intra-abdominal infections	2,498	7,219	1.6 (1.6, 1.7)	2.6 (2.6)
Immune system				
HIV	169	244	2.9 (2.3, 3.6)	5.2 (4.0)
Integumentary system				
Cellulitis	652	1,521	1.9 (1.7, 2.1)	3.2 (2.8)
Skin infections	3,964	9,919	1.8 (1.8, 1.9)	3.0 (3.0)
Nervous system				
Meningitis	137	323	2.2 (1.8, 2.8)	3.8 (3.0)
Central nervous system infections, excluding meningococcal disease	168	503	1.6 (1.3, 2.0)	2.6 (1.9)
Eye infections	1,055	3,286	1.6 (1.5, 1.7)	2.6 (2.4)
Ear infections	486	1,456	1.6 (1.4, 1.8)	2.6 (2.1)
Reproductive system				
Urinary tract infections	4,034	9,910	2.1 (2.0, 2.2)	3.6 (3.4)
Female pelvic infections ³	1,508	3,703	2.0 (1.8, 2.1)	3.4 (3.0)
Male genital infections ⁴	404	1,120	1.9 (1.7, 2.2)	3.2 (2.8)
Obstetrical infections	973	3,466	1.5 (1.3, 1.6)	2.4 (1.9)
Respiratory system				
Tuberculosis	112	175	2.3 (1.7, 3.0)	4.0 (2.8)
Pneumonia	4,862	11,547	2.0 (1.9, 2.1)	3.4 (3.2)
Influenza	211	508	1.8 (1.5, 2.2)	3.0 (2.4)
Other lower respiratory tract infections	1,755	4,163	1.9 (1.8, 2.0)	3.2 (3.0)
Upper respiratory tract infections	1,111	2,997	1.8 (1.7, 2.0)	3.0 (2.8)
Complications and sequelae of infections				
Bacteremia	399	850	2.1 (1.8, 2.4)	3.6 (3.0)
Infectious complications of procedures, catheters, etc.	867	2,083	1.9 (1.8, 2.1)	3.2 (3.0)
Sepsis	1,264	3,026	1.9 (1.7, 2.1)	3.2 (2.8)
Atypical mycobacteria	8	24	2.1 (0.8, 5.4)	3.6 (1.0)
Abscesses	3,292	8,682	1.8 (1.7, 1.8)	3.0 (2.8)

Septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, myositis	218	571	1.8 (1.5, 2.2)	3.0 (2.4)
Other infections				
Candidiasis and other fungal infections	504	1,032	2.1 (1.9, 2.4)	3.2 (3.0)
Sexually transmitted infections	961	2,364	1.9 (1.7, 2.0)	3.2 (2.8)
Miscellaneous bacterial infections	655	1,605	1.9 (1.7, 2.1)	3.2 (2.8)
Parasitic infections	108	309	1.6 (1.3, 2.1)	2.6 (1.9)
Miscellaneous viral infections	502	1,563	1.5 (1.4, 1.7)	2.4 (2.1)
Other infections or sequelae of infections	231	646	1.7 (1.4, 2.0)	2.8 (2.1)

568 CI = confidence interval, HR = hazard ratio

569 ¹ Adjusted for age group, sex, baseline marital status, physical comorbidities (CCI
570 score ≥ 1 versus 0), prior depression diagnosis, prior anxiety disorder diagnosis,
571 prior alcohol abuse/dependence diagnosis, and prior diagnosis of other drug abuse/
572 dependence disorder.

573 ² Heart infections include acute rheumatic fever, infectious pericarditis or
574 myocarditis, and endocarditis.

575 ³ Female pelvic infections include salpingo-oophritis, uterine infections, and
576 vulvovaginitis.

577 ⁴ Male genital infections include prostatitis, orchitis, and epididymitis.

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579

580 Table 3: Rates and interaction contrasts for sex differences in the association between adjustment disorder
 581 infections, Denmark, 1995-2011 (n=419,112)

	Males (n=163,680) Rate/100,000 PY		Females (n=255,432) Rate/100,000 PY		IC/100,000 PY (95% CI) ¹
	Adjustme nt disorder cohort	Comparis on cohort	Adjustme nt disorder cohort	Comparis on cohort	
Circulatory system					
Heart infections ²	33	17	20	8.9	5.0 (-5.0, 15)
Digestive system					
Viral hepatitis	193	33	82	19	97 (74, 119)
Gastrointestinal infections	331	126	409	171	-32 (-68, 3.4)
Intra-abdominal infections	537	282	481	263	36 (-7.2, 80)
Immune system					
HIV	70	19	12	3.2	43 (30, 56)
Integumentary system					
Cellulitis	188	73	94	47	68 (45, 91)
Skin infections	1,094	467	647	317	297 (239, 356)
Nervous system					
Meningitis	25	9.4	28	14	0.4 (-9.1, 9.9)
Central nervous system infections, excluding meningococcal disease	33	18	33	19	1.2 (-9.6, 12)
Eye infections	282	143	167	110	81 (52, 111)
Ear infections	88	55	100	53	-14 (-32, 4.5)
Reproductive system					
Urinary tract infections	465	236	1,027	453	-345 (-394, -295)
Female pelvic infections ³ (salpingo-oophritis, uterine infections, vulvovaginitis)	-	-	481	222	-
Male genital infections ⁴ (prostatitis, orchitis,	217	111	-	-	-

epididymitis)						
Obstetrical infections	-	-	306	207	-	
Respiratory system and lungs						
Tuberculosis	31	9.4	17	4.7	9.6 (0.2, 19)	
Pneumonia	1,139	478	894	405	172 (111, 234)	
Influenza	43	18	41	19	2.8 (-9.4, 15)	
Other lower respiratory tract infections	307	127	373	172	-21 (-55, 13)	
Upper respiratory tract infections	202	105	230	115	-18.6 (-46.2, 9.0)	
Complications and sequelae of infections						
Abscesses	808	367	587	302	156 (104, 207)	
Sepsis	305	133	216	100	56 (25, 87)	
Bacteremia	104	36	63	28	33 (15, 51)	
Septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, myositis	62	32	32	15	13 (-0.1, 27)	
Infectious complications of procedures, catheters, etc.	175	74	169	79	11 (-14, 35)	
Atypical mycobacteria	2.1	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.6 (-2.0, 3.1)	
Other infections						
Candidiasis and other fungal infections	89	35	105	40	-10 (-28, 8.0)	
Sexually transmitted infections	123	62	229	103	-64 (-88, -40)	
Miscellaneous bacterial infections	161	68	110	54	37 (15, 59)	
Parasitic infections	21	12	21	11	-1.3 (-9.9, 7.4)	
Miscellaneous viral infections	103	56	96	59	10 (-9.0, 29)	
Other infections or sequelae of	44	24	46	24	-3.1 (-16, 9.6)	

infections

582 CI = confidence interval, IC = interaction contract, PY = person-years

583 ¹ Female is the reference category, such that a positive IC indicates positive interdependence between male (versus
584 female) sex and adjustment disorder (versus general population) and a negative IC indicates negative
585 interdependence between male (versus female) sex and adjustment disorder (versus general population).

586 ² Heart infections include acute rheumatic fever, infectious pericarditis or myocarditis, and endocarditis.

587 ³ Female pelvic infections include salpingo-oophritis, uterine infections, and vulovaginitis.

588 ⁴ Male genital infections include prostatitis, orchitis, and epididymitis.

589