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Introduction: Acute stress disorder (ASD) and its predictivity in development of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has been researched extensively so far. Symptoms of peritraumatic dissociation (PD) has been proven as a predictive factor for PTSD, but recent studies have shown greater need for distinction of peritraumatic versus persistent dissociation.

Aims: Symptoms of PD and of persistent dissociation in subjects diagnosed with ASD will be predictive of PTSD symptoms.

Objective: To investigate the development of ASD symptoms, symptoms of PD and of persistent dissociation within the first month of traumatic event (initial) and six months later (follow-up) in victims of traffic accidents.

Materials and methods: At the moment, 25 subject were included in initial phase, and 18 at follow-up. Subject were interviewed, Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview, Acute Stress Disorder Structured Interview, Clinician Administered PTSD Scale, The Dissociative Experience Scale, and The Peritraumatic Dissociative Experiences Questionnaire were administered.

Results: 10 subjects were diagnosed with PTSD in the follow-up. Preliminary results support for a greater risk for PTSD when dissociative symptoms are present, of PD or persistent dissociation.

Conclusion: Greater distinction of dissociative symptoms in the acute trauma phase should be taken into account when diagnosing ASD. It could be eventually helpfull with identifying individuals at risk for PTSD.