

Correlation of cortisol, serotonin and leptin with the symptomatic profile of major depression

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The levels of cortisol, serotonin and leptin were estimated in the sera of 30 depressed patients (15 males and

15 females) and compared with those of 20 healthy controls. The patients were classified according to the severity of change of mood into moderate (18 patients) and severe cases (12 patients) as well as according to the symptomatic profile into patients with somatic symptoms (n=20) and without somatic symptoms (n=10). Cortisol levels were significantly increased, while serotonin levels were significantly decreased in

patients of major depression as compared with the controls. Leptin was significantly decreased with the loss of its nocturnal rise in depressed patients.