

The role of some biopsychosocial factors in the phenomena of rapid cycling bipolar mood disorder

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This work was carried out to study the phenomenon of rapid cycling in bipolar mood disorder as regards some biological, social and psychological perspectives. A theoretical study was carried out to identify the definitions of rapid cycling, etiology of this disorder and treatment options for rapid cycling. Forty patients were diagnosed as rapid cycling bipolar disorder according to DSM-IV criteria ; they were compared with 40 patients diagnosed as non-rapid cycling bipolar disorder. Both groups underwent demographic, clinical assessment, psychometric assessment using manic state rating scale for manics, Hamilton depression rating scale for depression, personality assessment form, life events questionnaire and EEG. Regarding the onset of illness, rapid cycling was older, female predominates inb this disorder. No difference was found regarding the type of the disorder. The onset of illness began in most of RC cases with depression, the RC subjects had significantly more episodes during the last year before the clinical assessment. Most of RC cases were exposed to stressors before their first episode. Rapid cycling had more evidence of epileptogenic dysfunction. The study recommended the treatment of mood disorders for enough time and doses.