

Cognitive dysfunction in bipolar affective disorder

Sayyah, Hala El-Saeid Supeervised by El-Mahallawi, Naglaa. Saif-El-Dawla, Ayda S. Refa

Ain-Shams Univ., Cairo (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.D. 2003

This study was carried out on 60 patients (30 suffering from bipolar affective disorder and 30 suffering from unipolar depression, according to ICD-10 diagnostic criteria). A control group of 30 individuals was also studied. This thesis aimed to study the cognitive impairment in bipolar affective disorder patients and patients with unipolar depression. Both cases and control groups were subjected to similarities and block design tests of Wechsler adult intelligence scale to test concept formation, Wechsler memory scale revised for memory assessment, continuous performance test to test attention and auditory event related potential as a neurophysiological assessment of cognition. The patients were tested twice, one at the acute state before starting treatment and the other was in the remission state of illness. Both manic and depressed patients had impairment in memory, sustaining attention, concept formation and information processing which did not recover completely after remission of illness. Neurocognitive impairment is directly proportionate to the severity, number of episodes and duration of illness. Neurocognitive impairment is an objective measure that may be used as a tool to investigate the abnormalities in the brain function underlying bipolar affective disorder and unipolar depression.