

Assessment of attention and hyperactivity symptoms in offsprings of parents with Bipolar disorder

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Aim of the work: To detect the presence or absence of attention and hyperactivity symptoms in bipolar patient's offsprings to determine if they are at high risk for psychopathology necessitating early assessment and intervention.

Study design: Cross- sectional study.

Method: The study includes offsprings of 60 subjects divided into two groups; group (A) includes children of 30 patients with bipolar disorder (13 males and 17 females) and group (B) which includes children of 30 healthy parents. Children of both groups are subjected to the Arabic version of the Achenbach's Child Behavior Checklist, and Conners' Rating Scale (C.R.S.).

Results: Children of bipolar patients show higher scores on the total problem subscale of the Child Behavior Checklist which includes attention-hyperactivity problems than children of controls ($p=0.008$). Children of bipolar patients have more significant problems regarding psychosomatic, anxiety and hyperactivity subscales of the Conners' Rating Scale than children of healthy parents. Children whom their parents have most of their episodes of the manic type are liable to somatic problems and attention-hyperactivity problems than children whom their parents have most of their episodes of depressive or mixed types. Children who don't have family history of psychiatric illnesses are significantly less liable to learning problem and hyperactivity problems than other children. There's statistically significant relation between presence of past history of hyperactivity symptom or misconduct behavior in parents and presence of learning and attention hyperactivity problems in their children. Male and female children of bipolar parents show more liability to somatic, impulsivity and hyperactivity problems than male and female children of healthy parents.

Conclusion: Offsprings of bipolar patients suffer from behavioral problems. Attention-hyperactivity problem is one of the most prominent behavioral problems in children of bipolar parents especially, those of manic type.