

Psychiatric morbidity, cognitive dysfunction and neurological soft signs in bipolar patients and their first degree relatives in an Egyptian sample

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2005 M. D.

Aim of the work: to study the psychiatric morbidity, cognitive dysfunction and NSS in bipolar patients and their first degree relatives.

Study design: Cross- sectional, case control study.

Method: 35 Bipolar I disorder patients (20 males, 15 females). Subjects of their first degree relatives subjects (51 males, 64 females). The study also includes 50 healthy controls (25 males, 25 females). All are subjected to; (SCID-I), the neurological evaluation scale, similarities and block design subtests of Wechsler adult intelligence scale (WAIS), verbal paired associates, design span, and visual memory span subtests of Wechsler memory scale- revised, Wisconsin card sorting test, and general health questionnaire (Okasha et al, 1988).

Results: There are highly statistically significant differences ($P < 0.01$) comparing the following variables: On the WMS-R subtests, the control subjects perform better than both the patients and their 1st degree relatives. On the Verbal Paired Associates subtests for both immediate and delayed recall of WMS-R, the 1st degree relatives performs better than the patients. On the WCST, the control subjects performed better than the 1st degree relatives, in all the scores except Total correct and Conceptual level response. All the NES scores higher in the patients than in the control subjects. All the NES scores higher in the patients than their 1st degree relatives. The Sensory Integration scores higher in the relatives, than the control subjects.

Conclusion: Bipolar patients and their first degree relatives have cognitive dysfunction and neurological soft signs in addition to their psychiatric morbidity.