

Psychosocial functioning in patients with psychotic and non-psychotic bipolar I disorder. A comparative study with individuals with schizophrenia

Jiménez-López E.

Sánchez-Morla E.M.

Aparicio A.I.

López-Villarreal A.

Martínez-Vizcaíno V.

Rodríguez-Jimenez R.

Vieta E.

Santos J.L.

Background More than 50% of individuals with bipolar disorder (BD) do not reach full psychosocial functioning, even during periods of euthymia. It has been suggested that history of psychotic symptoms is one of the factors which are associated with a worse functional outcome. The objective was to compare psychosocial functioning between patients with BD, with (BD-P), and without (BD-NP) a history of psychotic symptoms, and to examine whether the history of psychotic symptoms, or other clinical or neurocognitive variables predict psychosocial functioning. **Methods** Psychosocial functioning and neurocognition were examined in 100 euthymic patients with bipolar I disorder (50 BD-P, and 50 BD-NP), compared to 50 stabilised patients with schizophrenia (SZ), and 51 healthy controls (HC). **Results** 1) There were no differences between BD-P and BD-NP in the GAF-F score or in the FAST total score. 2) The two groups of patients with BD had better scores than SZ both in the GAF-F, and in all measures of the FAST, except for the subscale leisure time. 3) The neurocognitive composite index, verbal memory and subclinical depressive symptoms were the variables which explained a higher percentage of the variance of functional outcome. **Limitations** The cross-sectional design, and the relatively small sample size are the main limitations. **Conclusions** A history of psychotic symptoms has no relevant impact on the level of psychosocial functioning in BD. Neurocognitive dysfunction and subclinical depressive symptoms are the

variables that best explain the functional impairment. These findings have important clinical implications. © 2018 Elsevier B.V.

Bipolar disorder

Psychosis

Psychosocial functioning

Schizophrenia

anticonvulsive agent

antidepressant agent

chlorpromazine

lithium

adult

anticonvulsant therapy

Article

bipolar I disorder

clinical evaluation

cognition

comparative study

controlled study

correlational study

cross-sectional study

depression

disorders of higher cerebral function

female

functional disease

functional status

functional status assessment

Functioning Assessment Short Test

Hamilton Depression Rating Scale

human

leisure

major clinical study

male

medical history

memory disorder

mental patient

Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale

priority journal

psychopharmacotherapy

psychosis

schizophrenia

social psychology

verbal memory

Young Mania Rating Scale

bipolar disorder

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complication

middle aged

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psychosis

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Psychotic Disorders

Schizophrenia

Schizophrenic Psychology