

STUDY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND BIPOLAR DISORDER IN A SAMPLE OF ADULT PATIENTS

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Introduction

Schizophrenia is a clinical syndrome of variable, but profoundly disruptive, psychopathology that involves cognition, emotion, perception, and other aspects of behavior. The hallmark symptom of schizophrenia is psychosis, such as experiencing auditory hallucinations (voices) and delusions (fixed false beliefs). It carries a lifetime risk of around 1%, and its early onset and tendency to chronicity mean that its prevalence is relatively high.⁽¹⁾ In the 4th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, (DSM-IV), bipolar disorder constitutes a spectrum of mood disorders that includes BPI (bipolar affective disorder type I), BP II (bipolar affective disorder type II), cyclothymia and are thought to be a “bridge” between schizophrenia spectrum disorders and depressive disorders in terms of the symptomology, family history and genetics. Childhood trauma is considered as a risk factor for psychiatric disorders across diagnostic boundaries. Childhood trauma is most likely interacting with genetic factors in the development of psychiatric disorders.

Aim of the work

1. Study of the association of childhood trauma in a sample of patients suffering from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.
2. Identify potential differences of types of childhood trauma between both groups and its correlation with the diagnosis.

Subjects and Methods

Subjects:

Type of study: cross sectional study.

Study Setting:

The study will be conducted upon 100 subjects with schizophrenia (group A) and 100 subjects with bipolar disorder (Group B) of patients attending at Alexandria University hospital and Ma'mora hospital for mental health.

Methods:

The diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder in these patients will be confirmed by DSM-IV.
1. History taking and Sociodemographic data including: Gender, Age, Marital status, Educational attainment (highest degree obtained), Employment status (i.e., having a job at the time of the interview).
2. Psychometric study: Assessment of the history of childhood trauma by childhood trauma questionnaire (CTQ) the Arabic version.⁽²⁾

Results

Table 1: Comparison between the two studied groups according to trauma subtypes

	Group A (n = 100)		Group B (n = 100)		χ^2	p
	No.	%	No.	%		
Emotional abuse						
None	76	76.0	46	46.0	18.916*	<0.001*
Yes	24	24.0	54	54.0		
Physical abuse						
None	26	26.0	52	52.0	14.208*	<0.001*
Yes	74	74.0	48	48.0		
Sexual abuse						
None	79	79.0	81	81.0	0.125	0.724
Yes	21	21.0	19	19.0		
Emotional neglect						
None	59	59.0	65	65.0	0.764	0.382
Yes	41	41.0	35	35.0		
Physical neglect						
None	79	79.0	64	64.0	5.521*	0.019*
Yes	21	21.0	36	36.0		

Table 2: Comparison between the two studied groups according to trauma

Trauma	Group A (n = 100)		Group B (n = 100)		χ^2	p
	No.	%	No.	%		
None	20	20.0	25	25.0	0.717	0.397
Yes	80	80.0	75	75.0		

Conclusion

- The study results showed that on inspecting both samples, it was evident that at the broad level, exposure to any childhood trauma was very common in both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder patients with 80%, 75% respectively.
- When research moves from this broad level to consider particular types of childhood trauma, patients with schizophrenia had a higher prevalence of physical abuse.
- Patients with bipolar disorder had higher prevalence of emotional abuse and physical neglect.

References

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2. El Beheiry A, AbouDeif E. Childhood Trauma Questionnaire in: Mahmoud, A. The extent of the effectiveness of assertive training in enhancing low self-esteem among abused children; M.A. thesis for the requirements of M.A. degree in education, The Department of Mental Health, Assiut University; 2003.