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Introduction It is important to make an early and effective intervention from the first bipolar episode. The presence of depressive symptoms in the course of a manic episode could influence negatively the evolution and the prognosis of the patient. Inflammation and oxidative stress are also related with functionality.

Objectives To explore the relationship between depressive symptoms during a first episode of mania, inflammatory parameters and patient functionality during the follow-up.

Method We included in the study 92 are patients with a first manic episode and 92 matched healthy controls. We compared 13 inflammatory/oxidative stress parameters measured at baseline (TFN α , IL6, PGE2, MCP1, TBARS, NO2, SOD, CAT, GSHTOT, GSSG, GSHfree, GPx, TAS) between both groups. Between patients, 46 presented pure mania (PM) (no depressive symptoms) and 46 mixed mania (MM) (with depressive symptoms). We explored the influence of inflammatory factors in functionality, exploring differences between PM and MM. To measure patients' general functioning one year after illness onset, we used the Functional Assessment Short Test (FAST).

Results We found significant differences in TFN α , MCP1 and TBARS (higher in patients) and in SOD, GSHTot, GSSG, GSHfree, GPx and TAS levels (lower in patients). Only in MM group, there was a significant influence of SOD and GSHfree in FAST scores suggesting that a higher antioxidant levels at baseline the patient functionality improves one year after.

Conclusions Some parameters of oxidative stress at baseline are related with patient's functionality one year after the first episode of mania, but only when mania debuts with depressive symptoms simultaneously.

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EW37

Aspects of sexuality in bipolar women

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Introduction In spite of more studies dedicated to the topic of sexual disorders among schizophrenic patients or to the sexual effects of antipsychotics and antidepressants, few studies entangle broadly the issue of sexual attitudes and behaviors of bipolar patients, due partly to the heterogeneity of the disorder and the variety of episodes, and treatments.

Objectives To establish if special sexual patterns are specific to depressive or manic episodes and if the sexual disorders are related to the severity of the mood episodes.

Aims To compare depressive, manic, and matched controls regarding their sexuality.

Methods The current study is an observational cross sectional study, carried out on 173 women, among them 112 bipolar, diagnosed according to ICD-10 criteria (81 depressive, and 31 manic), and 61 controls. All subjects fulfilled the Sexual Disorders Interview (SDI), Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) and to bipolar patients BDI, YMRS have been administered.

Results Female bipolar patients were significant less sexual active than controls, depressive women being less interested in sexuality than manic patients; there were not significant differences between the two patients' samples regarding the frequency of sexual intercourse, degree of psychopathology. Sexual problems on FSFI were detected in 75% of bipolar patients, both bipolar groups emphasizing difficulties in arousal, lubrication and sexual satisfaction.

Conclusions The issue of sexual problems in bipolar female patients is delicate to investigate and often neglected, being difficult to ascertain to the mood disorder itself or to different treatments the patients have been exposed to, or to stigma.

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EW38

A peripheral composite proteomic and gene expression biomarker related to diagnosis and affective state in rapid cycling bipolar disorder

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Introduction Management of bipolar disorder is limited by absence of laboratory test. While alterations related to multiple biological pathways have been found in bipolar disorder, findings have not translated into clinically applicable biomarkers. We previously found promise for a combined gene expression biomarker. The combination of gene expression and proteomic biomarkers could have potential as a meaningful clinical test.

Objectives To identify a composite biomarker based on multiple potential peripheral biomarkers related to neuroplasticity, inflammation and oxidative stress, both on a proteomic and gene expression level.

Aims To test the ability of a composite biomarker to discriminate between bipolar disorder patients and healthy control subjects and between affective states in bipolar disorder patients.

Methods mRNA expression of a set of 19 candidate genes and protein levels of immune markers and neurotrophic factors were measured in peripheral blood mononuclear cells and combined with urinary levels of oxidized nucleosides of 37 rapid cycling bipolar disorder patients in different affective states (depression, mania and euthymia) during a 6–12-month period and in 40 age- and gender-matched healthy control subjects. A composite measure was constructed in the first half of the sample and independently validated in the second half of the sample. The composite measure was evaluated using ROC curves and by calculating sensitivity and specificity.

Results Statistical analysis is ongoing. Results will be presented at the congress.

Conclusions A peripheral composite biomarker based on multiple biological pathways on both proteomic and gene expression levels may have potential as a clinically applicable biomarker.

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