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SELECTIVE EFFECT OF PATERNAL AGE ON AGE-OF-ONSET IN BIPOLAR I DISORDER M. Grigoroiu-Serbanescu¹, P.J. Wickramaratne², R.C. Elston³

¹Psychiatric Genetics Research Unit, Alexandru Obregia Psychiatric Hospital, Bucharest, Romania, ²Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University, New York, NY, ³Department of Genetic Epidemiology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA Objective: The study investigated the effect of the parental age on the age-of-onset (AO) in bipolar I disorder (BPI) in connection with proband gender and family history for major psychoses in a directly interviewed sample of 530 BPI probands.

Method: All 530 probands, 73.0% of their first-degree and 22.62% of their second-degree relatives were administered the DIGS and FIGS interviews. The family history (FH) method was used for unavailable relatives. The impact of parental age on proband early/late AO was evaluted through logistic regressions. The commingling analysis (SAGEv6.1-software) was used to determine the cut-off age separating the early/late AO.

Results: We evidenced a significant influence of the paternal age ≥35 years on AO in BPI disorder in the total sample (p=0.023) and in some subgroups defined by positive/negative FH for major psychoses: the sporadic group (p=0.035) and the group with FH of recurrent unipolar major depression (Mdd-RUP) (p=0.041). No effect of the paternal/maternal age on disease AO was found in patients with FH of bipolar/schizoaffective disorders/schizoprenia (BP/SA/SCZ). The global significant effect of the advancing paternal age on the decreasing proband AO was generated by female patients (p=0.022). No effect of the paternal/maternal age on disease AO was found in male patients. Paternal age was older in fathers of sporadic cases and of cases with FH of Mdd-RUP than in cases with FH of BP/SA/SCZ (p=0.011). Conclusion: We evidenced a selective effect of the advancing paternal age on bipolar onset depending on offspring gender and type of FH for major psychoses.