

The Impact of Family Psychiatric History on Bipolar Disorder Severity and Treatment Response

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Introduction

- Family history of BD is correlated with a more severe course of illness.
- Few studies have analyzed family history of any psychiatric disorder on severity of BD.
- Few studies have analyzed the impact of family psychiatric history on treatment response.

Methods

- Secondary analysis of CHOICE and LiTMUS medication trials (N = 757).
- Bipolar I or II and CGI-BP >3 (59% female; 74% white; mean age = 39)
- Self-report of six severe psychiatric disorders among first-degree relatives.
- Clinical Global Impression Bipolar clinical rating scale (CGI-BP) was used to measure symptom severity.

Results

- Patients with familial psychiatric history tended to require more medications (p=0.054) but responded similarly (all p>0.1) to treatment.
- Better response on the mania subscale among individuals with familial psychiatric history (β =-0.032; 95%CI=-0.036; -0.028) compared to without (β =-0.020; 95%CI=-0.030; -0.011) (p=0.022 for interaction). This correlation was found for all specific familial psychiatric disorders (all p<0.05) except for suicide (p=0.17).

Discussion

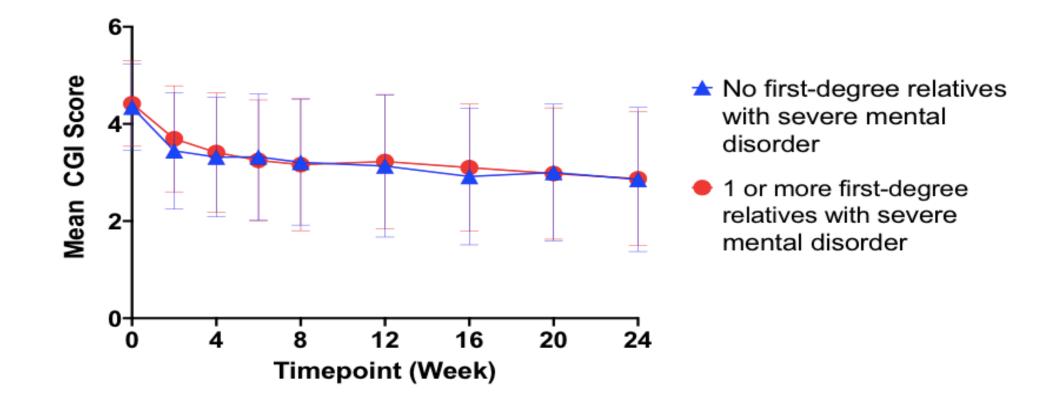
- Familial psychiatric history correlated with disease severity in this population.
- Patients in these medication trials with a greater familial psychiatric history required more medication, but achieved similar treatment responses.

Bipolar patients with a greater family history of psychiatric disorders had a more severe illness, but responded similarly to treatment.

Table 1. Correlation between familial psychiatric history with clinical patient characteristics.

Clinical severity markers, mean ±SD Age at first depressive episode 18.1 ±9.5 17.1 ±7.2 16.6 ±6.7 17.3 ±6.9 16.3 ±7.7 0.11 Age at first manic episode 20.5 ±10.5 20.2 ±9.1 19.6 ±8.5 19.4 ±7.8 19.3 ±8.3 0.61 Lifetime depressive episodes 35.3 ±35.5 33.1 ±43.3 32.8 ±35.3 32.6 ±40.0 41.9 ±41.3 0.06 Lifetime manic episodes 30.5 ±38.1 35.7 ±65.4 30.8 ±38.8 37.4 ±44.3 39.4 ±39.5 0.01
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Lifetime manic episodes 30.5 ±38.1 35.7 ±65.4 30.8 ±38.8 37.4 ±44.3 39.4 ±39.5 0.01
Previous psychiatric hospitalizations 1.4 ±3.6 1.4 ±2.6 1.4 ±2.7 2.2 ±6.6 1.8 ±4.2 0.01
Previous suicide attempts 0.8 ±2.3 0.7 ±1.4 0.9 ±1.8 0.9 ±1.8 1.5 ±4.0 <0.001
Total necessary clinical adjustments 7.3 ±5.4 7.3 ±5.3 8.6 ±6.6 8.3 ±6.1 7.8 ±5.5 0.30
Psychotropic medications at each visit 1.8 ±0.7 1.8 ±0.7 2.0 ±0.9 2.1 ±0.9 2.1 ±0.9 0.054

Mean CGI Score: Combined Treatment Groups



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