Gender differences in dual bipolar disorder

G. Mateu-Codina[1,2,7], R. Sauras-Quetcuti[1], A. Farré-Martínez[1,3,7], L. Galindo-Guarín[7], J. Martí-Bonany[4,7], M.G. Hurtado-Ruiz[5], M. Campillo-Sáenz[5], R. Sánchez-González[6], C. Castillo-Buenaventura[2], M. Torrens-Mèlich[1,2,3,7]

[1]Dual Diagnosis Unit. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, Centre Emili Mira, Parc de Salut Mar. Barcelona. [2]CAS Fòrum. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, Centre Fòrum, Parc de Salut Mar. Barcelona. [3]CAS Barceloneta. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, Hospital del Mar, Barcelona. [4]Partial Hospitalization Program. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, Centre Emili Mira, Parc de Salut Mar, Barcelona. [5]Acute Psychiatric Hospitalization Program. Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, Centre Emili Mira, Parc de Salut Mar, Barcelona. [6]Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions, CSMA Sant Martí Nord, Parc de Salut Mar. [7]IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute). Barcelona

E-mail: gmateu@parcdesalutmar.cat

Introduction

Women with bipolar disorder are more prone to psychiatric co-morbidity as anxiety, substance use disorders, eating disorders and borderline personality disorder. Nevertheless, substance abuse disorders as co-morbidity in bipolarity are higher in males than females.

Objectives

To describe differential characteristics of patients admitted to a psychiatric unit referring to gender in a group of patients with bipolar disorder comorbid with substances disorders (dually diagnosed patients).

Methods

Sociodemographic, clinical and administrative data of all patients diagnosed with bipolar admitted to a dual diagnosis during a 3-year period were collected. The psychiatric diagnosis was made according to DSM-IV-R criteria.

Results

From the whole sample (N=66), males (84,8%) were prevalent. Mean age were 37,71± 11,7 and mean length of admission was 24,94 ± 17,9 days. Cannabis (34,8%) and cocaine (33,3%) were the most frequent SUD diagnosis and main reason for admittance were conduct disorder (33,3%) and mania (25,8%).
Women showed higher length of admission, higher severity scores at admission and greater reduction in severity scores along hospitalization. No other clinical or sociodemographic differences were found comparing both groups of patients (Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Figure 1. Starting Age of Consumption

Figure 2. Problem age of consumption

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of both groups.

		Women (N=10; 15%)	Male (N=56; 85%)	*P* value
Age, years	Mean (SD)	34,5 (10,4)	38,3 (11,9)	0,35
Marital status, %	Single	50,0%	67,9%	0,43
	Married/Defacto	30,0%	14,3%	
	Divorced/Separated/Widow	20,0%	17,9%	
Level of education, %	No high school diploma	0,0%	5,4%	0,17
	High school diploma	60,0%	30,4%	
	Some college	40,0%	64,3%	
Employment, %		20,0%	16,1%	0,76
Legal background, %		20,0%	39,3%	0,24
Parental substance abuse background		20,0%	39,3%	0,24
Parental mental illness background		40,0%	58,9%	0,27

**The chi-square statistic is significant at level 0.05.*

Table 2. Clinical and Functional Variables at Admission in both groups

		Women (N=10; 15%)	Male (N=56; 85%)	*P* value
Length of admission	Mean (SD)	35,0 (18,9)	23,1 (17,2)	0,05
Clinical presentation	Suicide ideation/attempt	20,0%	7,1%	0,35
	Hallucinations/delusions	20,0%	14,3%	
	Other	60,0%	78,6%	
Personality disorder		30,0%	14,3%	0,22
Main drug of abuse	Stimulants	60,0%	30,4%	0,07
	Sedatives	40,0%	69,6%	
Cocaine SUD		60,0%	51,8%	0,63
Cannabis SUD		30,0%	50,0%	0,24
Alcohol SUD		40,0%	66,1%	0,12
Opioid SUD		20,0%	12,5%	0,52
Sedatives SUD		0,0%	17,9%	0,15
Amphetamines SUD		0,0%	14,3%	0,20
Hallucinogens SUD		0,0%	3,6%	0,54
Volatil SUD		0,0%	7,1%	0,38
Polydrug abuse		50,0%	60,7%	0,53

**The chi-square statistic is significant at level 05.*

Table 3. Historical data about age of drug use in both groups

		Women (N=10; 15%)	Male (N=56; 85%)	*P* value
Age of first use of cocaine, years	Mean (SD)	21,71 (6,3)	19,38 (5,3)	0,752
Age of first use of cannabis, years	Mean (SD)	15,67 (1,0)	14,86 (2,9)	0,510
Age of first use of alcohol, years	Mean (SD)	16,22 (3,8)	14,41 (4,1)	0,230
Age of first use of opioid, years	Mean (SD)	25,50 (13,4)	20,19 (5,4)	0,373
Age of first use of sedatives, years	Mean (SD)	19,80 (3,8)	27,11 (10,1)	0,132
Age of first use of amphetamines, years	Mean (SD)	19,67 (2,1)	18,82 (5,6)	0,360
Age of first use of nicotine years	Mean (SD)	15,33 (1,9)	14,49 (2,9)	0,568
Age of regular use of cocaine, years	Mean (SD)	27,17 (7,2)	25,93 (8,9)	0,391
Age of regular use of cannabis, years	Mean (SD)	18,00 (2,8)	15,00 (2,0)	0,839
Age of regular use of alcohol, years	Mean (SD)	22,20 (6,2)	20,94 (8,4)	0,749
Age of regular use of opioid, years	Mean (SD)	27,00 (11,3)	21,91 (6,6)	0,397
Age of regular use of sedatives, years	Mean (SD)	23,00 (1,4)	26,40 (9,2)	0,619
Age of regular use of amphetamines, years	Mean (SD)	25,00 (0,0)	18,90 (6,0)	0,663
Age of regular use of nicotine years	Mean (SD)	15,88 (2,2)	15,17 (2,4)	0,440

**The chi-square statistic is significant at level 05.*

Table 4. Severity Scores for both groups of study

		Women (N=10; 15%)	Male (N=56; 85%)	*P* value
GAF score at admission	Mean (SD)	44,50 (7,50)	38,96 (10,57)	0,36
GAF score at discharge	Mean (SD)	67,00 (10,24)	59,50 (9,66)	0,39
GEP score at admission	Mean (SD)	18,30 (6,53)	15,19 (5,40)	0,01*
GEP score at discharge	Mean (SD)	8,90 (4,43)	9,52 (3,92)	0,01*

**The chi-square statistic is significant at level 05.*

Conclusions

Women affected by dual bipolar disorder showed higher severity scores at admission but achieved better remission rates during hospitalization.

References

- Parial S. Bipolar disorder in women. Indian journal of psychiatry. 2015;57(Suppl 2):S252-263.
- Kawa I, Carter JD, Joyce PR, et al. Gender differences in bipolar disorder: age of onset, course, comorbidity, and symptom presentation. Bipolar Disord. 2005;7(2):119-125.

INAD Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addicions

Parc de Salut MAR Barcelona