PSYCHIATRIC MORBIDITY PRECEDING PSYCHOTIC- AND NON-PSYCHOTIC DEPRESSION

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MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

Do patients with psychotic severe depression (PD) differ from those with non-psychotic severe depression (non-PD)?

HYPOTHESES

- Patients with PD and non-PD have been assigned with a different pattern of psychiatric diagnoses prior to the onset of severe depression.
- Patients with PD have been admitted more often and for longer time compared with patients with non-PD.
- The psychopharmacological drugs prescribed to patients prior to the onset of severe depression differs between those who develop the psychotic- and non-psychotic subtype respectively.

RESULTS / CONCLUSIONS

Patients with psychotic severe depression **DO DIFFER** from those with non-psychotic severe depression prior to the onset of the two disorders

- Patients with PD and non-PD **ARE** assigned with a different pattern of psychiatric diagnoses.
- Patients with PD **ARE** admitted more often **AND** for longer time compared to patients with non-PD.
- The psychopharmacological drugs prescribed to patients prior to the onset of severe depression **DO DIFFER** between those who develop the psychotic- and non-psychotic subtype respectively.

This study highlights several differences in the pre-diagnostic phase of PD and non-PD, offering further support to the hypothesis that the two subtypes are in fact different clinical syndromes.

METHODS

The study is a register-based, retrospective cohort study based on the population of Denmark and combined data from two nationwide registers: The Danish Psychiatric Central Research Register and The Danish Drug Prescription Database:

The Danish Psychiatric Central Research Register

All Danish citizens assigned with an ICD-10 diagnosis of severe depression, either without- (F32.2 and F32.3) or with psychotic symptoms (F32.3 and F33.3) recorded in the register between January 1st 1994 and June 10th 2008 entered as subjects in the study. Data regarding subjects' psychiatric history was extracted from the same register.

Patients assigned with lifetime diagnoses of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, mania or bipolar disorder were excluded from further analyses. The same was the case for patients who developed PD after presenting with non-PD at index.

The Danish Drug Prescription Database

All prescribed drugs picked up by patients at pharmacies throughout the country are registered in the Danish Drug Prescription Database. The following classes of drugs were considered: Antidepressants, Antipsychotics, Lithium and Benzodiazepines/related sedatives. These drugs were selected because they all play a role in the treatment of PD and non-PD. Only drug use within the year prior to the diagnosis of severe depression was considered.

Statistics

Statistical analyses were performed with Stata 11. The methods are listed along with the results. Only two-sided tests were used and p-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant in all analyses.

* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001.

TABLE 2. The proportion of patients treated with various drugs in the year prior to index

	Non-psychotic (n=16.221)	Psychotic (n=7.680)	hbkhAOR sex/age
Antidepressants	66.1 (65.3-66.7)	55.4 (54.3-56.6)	0.6 (0.6-0.6) ***
Benzodiazepines	55.6 (54.9-56.4)	52.2 (51.1-53.3)	0.7 (0.7-0.8) ***
Antipsychotics	17.3 (16.7-17.9)	25.1 (24.9-26.0)	1.5 (1.4-1.6) ***
Lithium	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.1 (0.8-1.3)	0.5 (0.4-0.7) *

TABLE 3. Analysis: Logistic regression. OR = odds ratio, crude = no adjustment, sex/age = adjusted for age and sex. AOR > 1, drug used more often by patients with psychotic depression. AOR < 1, drug used more often among patients with non-PD.

FIGURE 1. Odds-ratios on cumulated prevalence of mental disorders preceding PD and non-PD

TABLE 1. Demographics and data regarding the number and duration of admissions

	Non-psychotic (n=16.221)	Psychotic (n=7.680)	IRR sex/age
Male sex, %	35.4 (33.6-37.2)	35.8 (35.1-36.6)	-
Age at index, years	50.8 (50.5-51.1)	56.7 (56.2-57.1) ***	-
Age at first psychiatric contact, years	46.7 (46.4-47.0)	52.1 (51.7-52.6) ***	-
Admissions, n	1.0 (2.6)	1.2 (3.1)	1.1 (1.1-1.2) ***
Admissions 1 year prior, n	0.2 (0.6)	0.2 (0.7)	1.2 (1.1-1.3) ***
Psychiatric bed-days, n	98.6 (196.6)	117.3 (230.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2) **
Psychiatric bed-days 1 year prior, n	34.6 (42.0)	35.8 (43.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)

TABLE 1. Number of subjects = 23.901. Analyses: Male sex - Two-sample t-test of proportions. Age at index and age at first psychiatric contact - Two-sample t-test of means. Admissions and bed-days - Negative binomial regression analysis with differences expressed as incidence rate ratios (IRR) adjusted for age and sex. The term "1 year prior" refers to the year prior to index. Only patients who had been admitted were considered in the calculation of bed-days. Numbers in brackets represent 95% Confidence Intervals or standard deviations.

KEY REFERENCES

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