

Diagnostic Comparison in First Episode Psychosis

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1 Introduction

The comparative evolution of psychotic disorders remains unclear. This research facilitates the understanding of diagnostic complexities at early onset of illness to mental health services. The cross-sectional episode characteristics at baseline serve to guide treatment decisions. In the early stages of illness it can be difficult to differentiate distinct conditions as there are no pathognomonic signs. The prospective evaluation of clinical presentation in schizophrenia and psychotic mood disorders may change during the first year of illness. Therefore, given the variable course of illness clinicians must be guided by and target signs and symptoms of first episode psychotic patients.

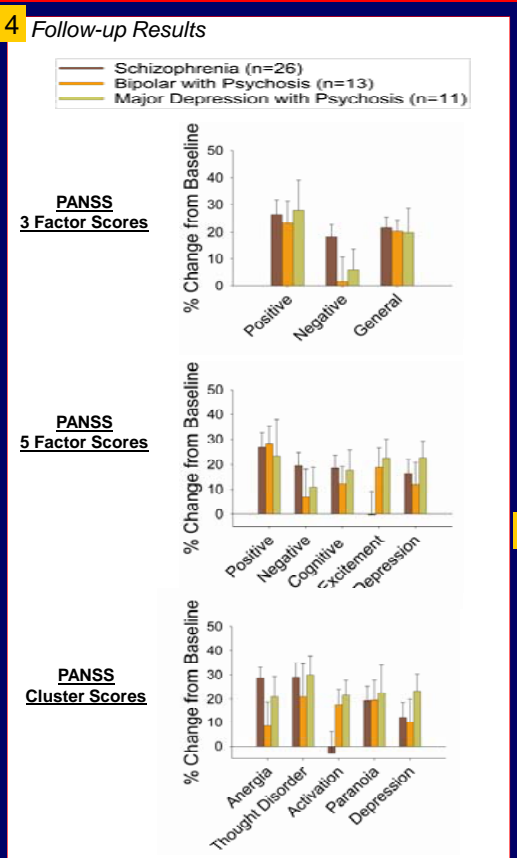
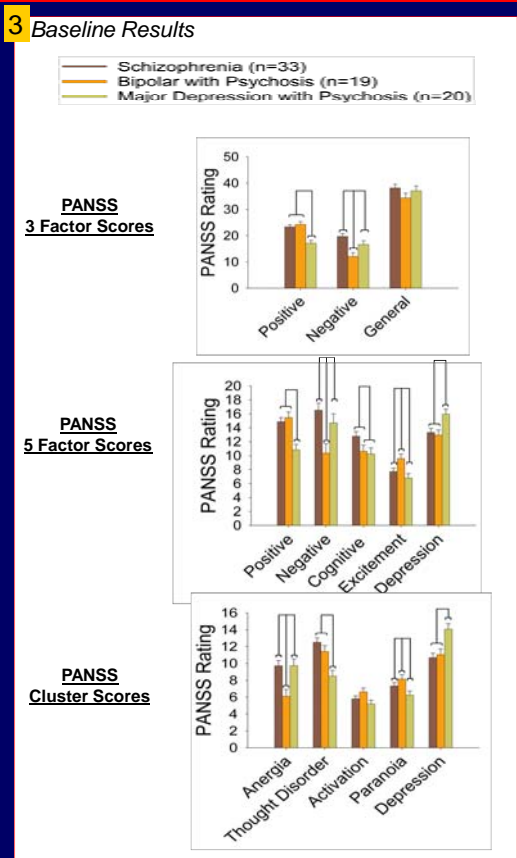
2 Methods

We report here early results of demographic variables and treatment response in first episode psychosis in both schizophrenia and affective psychotic disorders. Seventy-nine patients were recruited from the University of Illinois Medical Center. First episode psychosis patients were evaluated free of pharmacological treatment. Lifetime exposure to antipsychotics was less than 16 weeks. Diagnosis was determined using the SCID and consensus diagnosis based on all available information. All patients were assessed on standardized research instruments evaluating symptoms and global functioning at baseline and 4 weeks after treatment with atypical antipsychotic medications. Multivariate analysis was done to examine baseline PANSS factor scores. Repeated measures of variance was used to examine percent change from baseline to follow-up.

Demographics of Treatment-Naive FEP Patients

	Schizophrenia (n=36)	Bipolar w/ Psychosis (n=22)	MDD w/ Psychosis (n=21)	p-Value
Gender (M/F)	28/8	11/11	11/10	.05
Race				n.s.
white	6	4	6	
black	22	13	7	
hispanic	5	1	6	
other	3	4	2	
Age of Onset	21 (4.9)	23 (4.5)	23 (6.0)	n.s.
Current Age (yrs)	22 (5.2)	23 (3.9)	27 (10.0)	.01
IQ	89.4 (17.5)	93.1 (20.7)	90.8 (17.8)	n.s.

Note: P value for Gender reflects significance level for X2 test. Other p values reflect significance level for One-way ANOVA. Mean (SD) are reported for age of onset, current age and IQ. MDD = Major Depressive Disorder.



7 Conclusions

PANSS 3 Factor Scores at baseline

- Schizophrenia and Bipolar exhibited significantly more positive symptoms than Depressed patients at baseline presentation (p<.001).
- Bipolar patients presented with significantly less negative symptoms when compared to patients with Schizophrenia and Depression (p=.001).
- There was no significant difference between diagnostic groups in the PANSS General subscale (n.s.)

PANSS 5 Factor Scores at baseline

- Schizophrenia and Bipolar showed significantly more positive symptoms than Depressed patients (p<.001).
- Bipolar patients presented with significantly less negative symptoms when compared to patients with Schizophrenia and Depression (p=.002).
- Schizophrenic patients were significantly more cognitively impaired in relation to patients with Bipolar and Depression (p=.04)
- Bipolar patients present with a higher level of excitement at (p=.01) and Depressed patients presented with a higher level of depression (p=.007).

PANSS Cluster Scores at baseline

- Schizophrenia and Depression exhibited significantly higher level Anergia (p=.001).
- Schizophrenia and Bipolar exhibited significantly more Thought Disturbance (p<.001) and Paranoia (p=.03) when compared to patients with Depression.
- Bipolar patients showed equal level of Activation at baseline (n.s.).
- Schizophrenia and Bipolar patients exhibited significantly less depressive symptoms compared patients with Depression (p<.001).

Summary

- Patient with Schizophrenia and Bipolar are more similar in initial symptom at baseline presentation.
- After four weeks of treatment with atypical antipsychotic medications all patients improved among diagnostic groups in PANSS factor scores

8 PANSS Factor Scores:

3 Factor Scoring for PANSS

- Positive=sum of P1 through P7
- Negative=sum of N1 through N7
- General-sum of G1 through G16

5 Factor Scoring for PANSS

- Positive=P1+P5+P6+G9
- Negative=N1+N2+N3+N4+N6+G16
- Cognitive=P2+N5+G5+G10+G11
- Excitement=P4+P7+G4+G14
- Depression=G1+G2+G3+G6+G15

Cluster Scoring for PANSS

- Anergia=N1=N2+G7+G10
- Thought Disturbance=P2=P3=P5=G9
- Activation=P4=G4=G5
- Paranoia=P6+P7+G8
- Depression=G1=G2=G3=G6

9 Support

This research was supported grant NIH MH62134.