
Bipolar Disorder: What Kind of Disturbances of Thought Content and Perception Are Observed?

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Objectives: To study the kind of disturbances of thought content (DTC) and perception (DP) observed in patients admitted at Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa - Affective Disorders' ward, with the diagnostic of Bipolar Disorder.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of all patients admitted between October 10th, 2013 and March 31st, 2014; measuring the presence and the type of DTC and DP.

Results: A total of 149 patients were admitted, 52,3% had DTC (N=78). Overvalued ideas were present in 16.1% (N=24), and five of them showed more than one kind of them (10 with persecutory ideas, 7 grandiose, 5 of poverty, 4 of guilt, 1 nihilistic). Delusional ideas were present in 33.6% of the patients (N=50), 23 of them with multiple kinds of DTC,: 28 with persecutory ideas, 24 grandiose, 16 mystic, 6 of self-reference, 3 of guilt, 2 of poverty.

In 2.7% of the patients (N=4), both delusional (3 grandiose, 1 persecutory, 1 of jealousy) and overvalued ideas (3 persecutory, 1 of ruin) were present.

Hallucinations were observed in 11.2% of the patients (N=17), all of them auditory. From these patients, 5,8% presented overvalued ideas, and 70,6% delusional ideas (N=12): 7 patients with persecutory ideas, 6 grandiose, 5 mystic, 7 of guilt, 7 of poverty, 1 of self-reference (24% of the patients with delusional ideas had disturbances of perception).

Discussion/Conclusion: More than half of the patients admitted with Bipolar Disorder presented DTC, mainly persecutory and grandiose. Less frequent, auditory DP are also present, the majority of them associated with DTC.