

P-516 - DOES THE SEVERITY OF DEPRESSION AND PSYCHOSIS CORRELATE DURING MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODES?

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Introduction: Psychotic depression (PD) is classified as a subtype of severe depression in the current diagnostic manuals. Accordingly, it is a common conception that psychotic features in depression arise as a consequence of depressive severity.

Objectives: To determine whether the severity of depression and psychosis correlate in accordance with the “severity-psychosis” hypothesis and to detect potential differences in clinical features of psychotic and non-psychotic depression (non-PD).

Aims: We aimed to answer the following questions:

- Does the clinical profile differ between patients with PD and non-PD?
- Is the severity of depression and psychosis correlated in patients with depression?

Methods: Quantitative analysis of Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS) scores from all patients admitted to a Danish general psychiatric hospital between 2000 and 2010 due to a severe depressive episode.

Results: A total of 357 patients with severe depression, of which 125 (35%) were of the psychotic subtype, formed the study sample. Mean HoNOS scores at admission differed significantly between patients with non-PD and PD on the items *hallucinations and delusions* (non-PD=0.33 vs. PD=1.37, $p < 0.001$), *aggression* (non-PD=0.20 vs. PD=0.36, $p=0.044$) and on the total score (non-PD=10.55 vs. PD=11.87, $p=0.024$). The HoNOS scores on the two items “*depression*” and “*hallucinations and delusions*” were very weakly correlated (Spearman coefficient=0.12).

Conclusions: The results suggest that the severity of depression is unlikely to be the key determinant for the development of psychosis and supports the hypothesis that the psychotic- and non-psychotic subtypes of depression are in fact distinct clinical syndromes.