

Article: 0184

Topic: FC02 - Free Communications 02: Bipolar Disorders, Depression and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders

Adverse Childhood Events and Psychosis in Bipolar Affective Disorder

R. Upthegrove¹, C. Chard¹, L. Jones¹, K. Gordon-Smith¹, L. Forty², I. Jones², N. Craddock²

¹Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom ; ²National Centre for Mental Health MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics, Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Background: There has been increasing interest in the association between childhood trauma and psychosis. Proposals for potential mechanisms involved include affective dysregulation and appraisals of threat, yet few large-scale clinical studies exist in affective psychosis.

Aim: We hypothesise that within bipolar disorder (BD), childhood events will show a significant association with psychosis, and in particular with symptoms driven by dysregulation of mood or with a persecutory content.

Method: 2019 participants were recruited as part of our programme of research into the genetic and non-genetic determinants of BD (www.bdrn.org). Data on lifetime ever presence of psychosis and specific psychotic symptoms were determined by detailed structured interview with case note review. Childhood events were recorded after self-report questionnaire and case note information.

Results: There was no relationship between childhood events, or childhood abuse, and psychosis per se. Childhood events were not associated with increased risk of persecutory or other delusions. Significant associations were found between childhood abuse and auditory hallucinations, strongest between sexual abuse and mood congruent or abusive voices. These relationships remain significant after controlling for lifetime ever cannabis misuse.

Conclusions: Within affective disorder, the relationship between childhood events and psychosis appears to be relatively symptom-specific. It is possible that the pathways leading to psychotic symptoms differ, with delusions and non-hallucinatory symptoms being influenced less by childhood or early environmental experience.

1. Upthegrove R, Chard C, Jones L, Gordon –Smith K, Forty L, Jones I and Craddock N. Adverse Childhood Events and Psychosis in Bipolar Affective Disorder. *BJPsych* in press BJP/2014/152611