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Hypersomnia in BDI-II: clinical and demographic features

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Background

Hypersomnia is considered to be a diagnostic feature of atypical depression. Beck's Depression Inventory, 2nd edition (BDI-II) was developed for the assessment of symptoms corresponding the criteria of depressive disorders according to DSM IV. The current study was conducted to increase the understanding of hypersomnia concerning its demographic and clinical characteristics, especially in relation to atypical depression.

Materials and methods

113 patients, who visited the CMHC of N/W district of the Psychiatric Hospital of Thessaloniki, were examined and diagnosed according to DSM IV. All patients completed BDI-II and Spielberger's State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-Gr). The patients were divided concerning their response to item 16 (0 - 3) of BDI-II. The two groups (A: no hypersomnia vs. B: hypersomnia = 1 - 3)) were examined concerning their demographic and clinical features

Results

Group A did not differ significantly from group B in terms of age, sex, education and family status. The two groups also did not show significant difference in terms of their diagnoses on Axis I and Axis II of DSM IV. There was no case of atypical depression found in B. However Group B scored significantly higher at BDI-II (U=660.000, p>0,01)

Conclusions

The item of hypersomnia is strongly correlated with high scores at BDI-II. It seems that BDI-II is a precise diagnostic

instrument for depressive disorders in addition to DSM IV

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