

Social cognition across bipolar disorder and behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia: an exploratory study.

Izabela Barbosa, Flávia Chiáccchio Leite, Maxime Bertoux, Henrique Guimarães, Luciano Mariano, Leandro Gambogi, Antônio Lúcio Teixeira, Paulo Caramelli, Leonardo Cruz de Souza

State of the art: Bipolar Disorder (BD) type 1 and behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD) share similar behavioral and cognitive symptoms, rendering the differential diagnosis between them a clinical challenge. We investigated the accuracy of social cognition measures to differentiate bvFTD from BD.

Methodology: We included three groups of participants: BD type 1 (n = 20), bvFTD (n = 18), and healthy controls (HC, n = 40), matched for age, schooling, gender, and executive functioning. All participants underwent the facial emotion recognition test (FERT) and the *faux-pas* test, which assess Theory of Mind.

Results: Compared to HC, BD and bvFTD patients underperformed on most of the social cognition measures, including the FERT and the *faux-pas* test (total score). BD and bvFTD did not differ on the FERT (total score), but bvFTD patients had significantly lower scores than BD patients on the detection of *faux-pas* ($p < 0.001$, $d = 1.35$).

Conclusions: bvFTD and BD share deficits in most of social cognition domains. These findings should be considered in the development of tasks aiming to improve the clinical differentiation between both disorders.

Conflicts of interest

The Authors declare no conflict of interest.